Record Group 104. Entry 11.

Correspondence with Branch Mints and Assay Offices, 1835-98.

New Orleans
1839

Digitized April 4-20, 2023, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Volumes in Box 29 for 1839-1841 are shown in this table:

Folder Number	*Year*	*Title (As Written on Archives' Folders)*
1	1839	New Orleans - 1839
2	1840	New Orleans - 1840
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5	1840	New Orleans – 1840 (Cont.)
6	1841	New Orleans – 1841
7	1841	New Orleans – 1841

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RG 104 RECORDS OF THE
BUREAU OF THE MINT
U.S. Mint At Philadelphia,
1791-1936

Correspondence, 1792-1904

CORRESPONDENCE WITH BRANCH MINTS
AND ASSAY OFFICES, 1835-98

New Orleans, La.,
Branch Mint:
1839 - 1841

BOX NO. NC-152 E-11 HM1992
29

NEW ORLEANS – 1839

Mint of the United States.
Jan. 5th, 1839

Sir,

Your transfer-draft on the Treasurer of this Mint, for $50,000, endorsed in my favor, has been duly received, and I have made an arrangement with the U. S. Bank, in consequence of which they will receive, at this place, the coins for the certificates which they hold from your Mint, — up to that amount. You will please, therefore, to give information to this effect, ~~and to get your Treasurer~~ to ~~endorse the certificates~~ as payable by us: ~~taking care, however,~~ not to exceed ~~the $50,000 which~~ we hold of yours, to the agents of the U. S. Bank who now ~~hold the~~ certificates ~~of the~~ at N. Orleans.

R. M. P.
D—

To/
David Bradford, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint
New Orleans.

To/ David Bradford, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans

Jan. 5. 1839.

January 1839

Mint U.S.
Jan 17th 1839.

Sir,

Your letter of the 4th inst. has been duly received, and has enabled me to give the statements respecting your Mint required in my annual report.

The dies which you ask for have been ordered, and will be forwarded without delay. It appears to me that no time should be lost in getting ready for the coinage of half dollars. Dimes and half-dimes count too slowly, and keep your amount of coinage too low.

I pray you to present my respects to Gen. Gaines, and to inform him that the dies for his medal belong to the government, and are specially entrusted to the keeping of this Mint, as are all the other dies prepared under the same circumstances. The cost of an additional gold medal would be about $180; but Gen. Gaines is probably not aware that you have no press, in your Mint, with which such a medal could be struck.

R. M. P

To/ David Bradford Esq
Sup. Br. Mint
New Orleans.

To/ David Bradford, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

January 17. 1839.

New Orleans Jany 19th 1839

Doct R M Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadal

Dear Sir

It is with extreme regret that I find myself compelled so soon after my arrival in this plac to appeal to you for Justice. With my mind fully impressed with the solemn oath I had taken faithfully to perform the duties of my office, I arrived here feeling an anxious desire to discharge the obligations thus laid upon me: in the prosecutio of these duties I have thwarted the wishes of the Superdt Mr Bradford and because I would not become his tool, & second him in his efforts to get the control of the Treasury, he has revoked the appointment you were pleased to make, & dismissed me from Office. the sum of my offence is, having opposed the Supdt in his assumption of the duties of Treasr. I am sure Sir had you been present, & known all the circumstances you would have expressed yourself in even stronger terms in my favor than Mr Forstall the Treasr did; who said he was perfectly satisfied with my conduct, and in his view I had done nothing wrong. The Treasurer has always expressed a desire that business should be conducted here as it is in Phila. I believe him to be a truly honest man who is anxious to discharge faithfully the duties of his Office. he was much gratified when I arrived, thinking I would relieve him of a great part of his anxiety. But with many virtues he is a weak man. he is very much afraid of the Supdt and dares not oppose any of his measures, thinking he has power or influence enough to have him turned out of office.

But that you may better understand the situation of affairs here, I must trespass on your patience and give you a sketch from the time of my arrival to the present.

During my first interview with Mr Bradford. I stated your desire to have the Annual Rept. as soon as possible, and my willingness to commence it without delay- he with great reserve of manner informed me that Mr Laserre was engaged in its preparation, & that my assistance was not required. for the next 3 a 4 days I confined myself to the duties of the ay room, putting things in order, delivg Bullion to the M&R &c. on the 7th Mr Laserre was appointed one of the Clerks of the Legislature, and resigned his situation in the Mint. Mr Dimitry, a creole of very respectable family was put in his place; an appointment with which we were all pleased. it was about this time that Mr B. stated to me his desire that Copies of the Assayers Reports should be prepared for the M&Refiner, I replied that Copies were not contemplated in the business of the Mint, there being less probability of error where the original papers were used. this was not agreeable to him, as he had long wished, for what cause I know not, that the Melter & R should have Copies & not original papers. Some short time since so anxious was he to carry out this plan, that he copied the report himself, it was one of Silver containg Gold - he omitted to note the Gold - the M & R had so much labour in rectifying this error, that he has since that time insisted upon having the originals.

On Monday the 7th inst the Treasurer gave me his Keys, with the charge that no one was to enter the vault but himself & me - for up to this time the door was seldom locked during the day, & the Porter could be seen inside much oftener than the Treasurer himself. -

On Thursday the Supdt told me to leave the Keys of the vault with him when I left the office in the afternoon, as Mr Laserre was coming at 5 o'c to settle the accts, with himself (the Supdt) & Mr Dimitry, the Cash Clerk, and to hand me the balance of Cash. I stated the Treasurer's words when he gave me his Keys, "& that I could not give them up without the Treasurer's order". adding that if Mr Laserre was coming to settle his accts, I being weigh master was the proper person to receive for the Treasr whatever balance Mr Laserre had to hand over, & that I could attend at 5 o'c for that purpose - this was declined, being considered by the Supdt unnecessary:

A short time after this conversation he came to me & said he desired I should accompany him to Mr Forstall's house to get the order I thought necessary: when we arrived Mr F. stated the object of the visit: & I replied - that being the Treasr's Clk, & having recd the Keys from him, it was not proper for me to give them up without his order - this made him hesitate, & turning to the Supdt he said that as I was just from the Mint in Philada I must probably know what was right -. Mr F seeing a disinclination on the part of the Treasr to give the order, & that I would not comply without it, proposed to defer the matter till next morning.

On Friday morning Mr Laserre counted the money in the vault which amounted to about $2300 & handed it over to me - but, without stating to what accts it belonged. - Shortly afterward I recd a letter from the Supdt directing me to attend to the duties of weigh master - (it seem'd he thought I was attending to more than my proper duties) - & on Monday, another, directing me to take charge of the Books & Blanks of the wg room - to hand over to the other clerk, the assayer's reports when warrants were to be issued, & to furnish the M & R with Copies of these Reports when I deliver'd him Bullion. this cut me off from all access to the rest of the Treasr's books & papers: & that I might have no excuse for going near the desk & thus overlooking any transactions the Books & blanks mention'd in the note were taken out of the Treasr office where they had always been kept, & placed in the weigh-room.

Yet still this did not place the Supt at the Summit of Power at which he aimed - I had the Keys of the Treas's vault - & no one could get money without my knowledge - the object of the next effort was to overcome this last obstruction - it succeeded - This morning the Supt addressed a letter to the Treas - directing him, to separate his funds - to keep his bullion deposites in one vault & his Coins in another. (it may here be proper to state, that the only vault which is really safe is the Treasrs; which is entirely encased with heavy bands of iron laid crosswise - it has two iron doors, with good locks - & could not be broken open without great labour) in this note the Supt offer'd the use of the vault opening into his own office for keeping his coins in, the key of which was to be in charge of Mr Dimity. this vault was never intended for holding money; its walls are not of extra strength and altho it has two iron doors, but one can be locked - and in fact it is merely a safe for keeping books & papers in. Yet in this place is the Treasurer directed (in a manner he is afraid resist) to put all the Government funds he may have in his hands, & all the coins recd from the Coiner to pay off certificates: the key taken from him & given to a young man, who however honest he may be & desirous of faithfully discharging his trust, yet, not knowing what are his duties, he is a fit subject for a tool to the designing - as soon as this official letter, as the Treas consider'd & stiled it, he handed it to me. I ask'd him if he was willing to submit to such dictation & interference with the duties of his office - he replied that "coming from the Supt he supposed it must be obeyed". I then endeavored to explain to him the great responsibility of his office - that himself and not Mr Bradford, was responsible for the correctness of his accts & that the Treas & not the Supt would be looked to in case of error: & therefore I did not think it proper he should consent to having his funds divided in this way - he was convinced - but dared not act. this conversation was all overheard by the Supt who stood inside the door of the next Room, listening - he enter'd the sy Room & Mr Forstall told him my objections, adding that I thought Mr Dimity ought not to have the Keys. this the Supt consider'd "unsufferable insobordination" (I use his own words & spelling). and is the charge preferred against in my formal discharge given me a few minutes after: The Treasurer was then directed to require me to give up the Keys - which he did in a manner becoming a gentleman - I complied without hesitation - in one hour after they were in the possession of the Supt who had the porters busily engaged in dividing the bullion, putting the coins into his own vault.

And this high handed & arbitrary course of conduct the Supdt. has not been alone – the assayer has been his steady adviser – & no doubt has his object in view – (a tale could be told of him, were it denied) – he may want to have that influence over the Supdt. he already has over the Treasr. of whom he makes his boast, that he can do just as he pleases with him – & tis true – he always assails him at his weak point – invites him to his rooms – where for a few glasses of wine, the poor old man sells himself to the Doctor, becomes his humble servant to say and think any thing this snake wishes –

Some of Mr. B's advisers have said "we can do nothing here till we shake off this northern influence & control, have our own Engraver, Dies &c, and make this Mint independent of the one in Philada."

It may probably surprise you that all this difficulty is displayed so soon after my arrival – the fact is until I came there was no one to call in question any of the Supdt's actions, do what he might – up to this time he has been acting Treasurer's clerk – & the Treasr. himself knows nothing of the state of his accts – he will without hesitation sign his name to any paper the Supdt. may hand him & stand by & see any sum paid the Supdt. may say:

I think I have said enough altho the half is not told – you will have to visit this place & have an agent to act for you – as yet you are feared – I hope the fear may continue till you are able to remedy the evil –

With much Respect
I Remain in haste
Your ob Svt
W E Rufford

P.S. Please let me hear from you, directed to the Care of Messrs. J W Zacharie & Co.

Treasury Department
First Comptrollers Office
January 18th 1839

Sir

On the examination in this Office, of your account of expenditures for the Branch Mint at New Orleans from 21st August 1835 to 30th July 1838, it appears that you have charged the following sums the vouchers for which are not with the accounts, viz

1835		
August 26.	Amount paid Merrick Agnew & Tyler as per receipt No 1	$2000..
September 17	M W Baldwin No 2	2000..
December 5	M W Baldwin " 3	1000..
" 26	Merrick Agnew & Tyler " 4	1430..
	Dollars	6430..

You will please to forward these vouchers or their duplicates as early as may be in your power

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
J N Barker
Comptroller

R M Patterson Esqr

From/
Jas. N. Barker, Esq.,
First Comp. Treasury
dated Jan. 18, } 1839.
rec'd " 21 }

82

13
12
1
20
4
4
4
4
4
[illegible]
17
37
18
9
1
8
[illegible]

9
2
4
8
2
3
4
6
37
11
4
23
[illegible]
7

From/ Wm. E. Spofford,
New Orleans.
dated Jan. 19.
rec'd Jan. 31. } 1839.

P. S. On the 25th May last, a set of forms & instructions was sent to your Br. The Copy, on file ~~here~~, was lent to Mr. Spofford, while here; and as this is now missing, we have thought it possible that Mr. S. had, by mistake, carried ~~the~~ it with him to N.O. - Will you be kind enough to call his attention to it, & request him, if he finds the copy in his possession, to return it by mail, to the Director.

Mint of the United States,
January 25. 1839.

Sir,

Herewith, I send you a full statement of the account of your Branch, for moneys received and paid out by me, for ~~the~~ incidental and other expenses of your Mint, incurred here; I send also the original bills & receipts, as vouchers. - These will explain the items in the Dr. side of the account. In regard to the items of Cr., which were mostly remittances direct from yourself, I refer you to your letters dated Jan. 3d, Jan. 7th, Feby. 3d, Feb. 21st, March 4, & April 5th, & to letters of the Superintendent of April 20th, and May 22d, respectively. The credit balance of July 30th is the amount remaining in my hands, at that time, on settling, with the Treasury Department, my account for disbursements, made prior to the commencement of the acct. now rendered.

I have made no distinction between the amounts paid here to the families of workmen at your Br. on acct. of wages, and the amts. paid for your incidental expenses: this distinction, the vouchers will enable you to make. ~~at the~~ The former amts. have probably been already included in your quarterly accts., under the head of Wages of Laborers.

Edmd. Forstall. Esq.
Treas. N.O. Br. Mint.

R. M. P.
Dir

To/ Edmund Forstall, Esq.
Treasurer Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Jan. 25. 1839.

Silver Coinage executed at the Br. Mint at New Orleans from the commencement to the 31st January 1839 inclusive

Date	Denomination	Number of pieces Thous. Hund.	Value Doll.	cents	Remarks
1838					
July	Dimes	367.434	36743	40	
December	do	35.000	3.500	„	
1839					
January	do	3.600	360	„	
„	Half dimes	70.000	3.500	„	
February	Dimes	118.000	11.800	„	
„	half dimes	10.000	500	„	

246.66
12.8
197328
295992
11) 3157248
287.022

1,070.24
11
12.8) 11772.64 (9197
1152
252
128
1246
1152
944
896
48

1,613.70
1.2.8
1290960
1936440
11) 20655.360
1,877.760

1839 From the 1st to the 28th February inclusive

February	Mexican Bullion No.	1	152.75	978	165.98	193.14	192.15
	do	1	1463.33	980	1593.40	1853.72	1853.72
	Hammered Dollars	2	4353.45		4317.70	5024.23	5024.23
	Silver from Gold	1	25.60	563	16.01	18.63	15.52
	Mexican Bullion	1	105.	862	100.57	117.02	116.72
	French Coins	2	801.	899	800.11	931.03	931.03
	Hammered dollars	2	642.26	880	627.99	730.75	730.75
	Silver from Gold	1	28.	430	13.38	15.57	12.17
	Mexican Bullion	1	615.	985	673.08	783.22	783.22
	Hammered Dollars	2	254.	874	246.66 =	287.02 1.070.24	1.068.22
	French Coins	2	1483.75	900	1483.75	1,726.54	1,726.54
	do	2	1615.50	899	1613.70 =	1877.66 5575.54	5,575.54
	do	2	1694.	900	1694.	1,971.20	1,971.20
	Mexican Bullion	1	78.	957	82.94	96.51	96.27
	Mexican Coins	2	103.35	898	103.12	119.99	119.99
	No. 1 =		2,467.68		2,645.36	3,077.81	3,070.27
	No. 2 =		10,947.31		10,887.03	17,149.52	17,147.50
			13,414.99		13,532.39	20,227.33	20,217.77

Gold 8

February	Foreign Coins	14.90	895	14.817	275.66	275.66
	do	11.32	893	11.232	208.96	208.96
	Mexican Bullion	245.75	590	161.342	3.001.71	2.996.15
	Foreign Coins	17.88	894	17.760	330. "	330. "
	Mexican Bullion	25.60	365	10.382	193.15	192.80
	German Coins	10.	893	9.922	184.59	184.59
	do	18.60	895	18.496		
		34.60	894	34.369	1289.61	1289.61
		16.60	892	16.452		
		79.80		79.239	1,474.20	1,474.20
	Mexican Bullion	28.	28	17.422	324.13	323.53
	German Coins	85.22		84.462	1571.38	1571.38
	Geo. Private Coins	7.43		6.810	126.69	126.69
		515.90		403.46	7,505.88	7,499.37

Approved

David Bradford

Superintendent

Silver Deposites received at the Br. Mint at New Orleans from the 1st August 1838 to the 31st January 1839 inclusive

Date 1838	Description	Gross Wt after the Melting	Fineness	Standard Weight	Value before deduction	Value after deduction
August	Hammered dollars	16.197.61		17.786.42	20.696.92	20.489.92
	Mex. bullion	152.	884	149.30	173.73	173.73
November	French coins	545.	908	549.84	639.80	639.80
	Ornaments	363.85	907	366.67	426.67	426.67
	Foreign coins	140.65	878	137.21	159.66	159.66
	do	298.85	843	279.92	325.72	325.72
	Mexican bullion	152.40	984	166.62	193.88	193.22
December	Foreign Coins	1221.		1200.05	1396.42	1396.42
1839 January	do	94.	883	92.22	107.30	107.30
	do	115.85	891	114.69	133.45	133.45
		209.85		206.91	240.75	240.75
	Mex. bullion	102.	895	101.43	118.02	118.02
	do	360.70	964	386.35	449.57	448.42
	do	163.10	905	164.	190.83	190.83
	do from Gold		185	81.92	95.32	47.28
	do do		408	115.48	134.34	103.41
		625.80		849.18	988.08	907.9
		835.65		1,056.09	1,228.83	1,148.7

Gold Deposites

Date 1838	Description	Gross Wt after the Melting	Fineness	Standard Weight	Value before deduction	Value after deduction
August	Mexican bullion	13.90	768	11.861	220.67	220.67
November	do	53.	938	55.237	1.027.66	1.027.66
	do	250.	949	263.611	4.904.37	4.904.37
	Foreign Coins	80.85	891	80.042	1489.12	1.489.12
	do Bullion fr. Silver			23.129	430.31	429.51
December	do Coins	18.85	892	18.682	347.57	347.57
	South Carolina	7.60	952	8.039	149.54	149.54
January	Jewelry	✓ 1.23	424	.579	10.77	10.73
	Foreign Coins	✓ 7.65	895	7.607	141.52	141.52
	do	✓ 53.10	893	52.687	980.22	980.22
	Georgia Bullion	✓ 398.57	792	350.741	6525.41	6513.33
	Foreign Coins	✓ 6.05	896	6.023	112.	112.
	Georgia Gold	✓ 12.40	905	12.468	231.95	231.95
		479.10		430.105	8001.87	7989.7

U S B Mint New Orleans
January 23rd 1839

Sir

Your letter of the 9th inst. was received on the 21st inst. and being engaged in settling the annual accounts of the Melter & Refiner and Coiner, I take the first moment to answer it and have the honor to Report that on the 17th inst I forwarded to the Secy of the Treasy to be forwarded to you under his frank all the Coins reserved for the Annual Assay at this Branch Mint up to the 16th inst of which I make a ~~Statement~~ (a Copy from the Treasrs returns to me of that date) VIZ:

√ 3	Dimes	from delivery	June 25th 1838	Warrant		No.	1
√ 1	"	"	"	July 14	"	"	" 2
√ 6	"	"	"	" 23	"	"	" 3
√ 7	"	"	"	" 27	"	"	" 4
√ 14	"	"	"	" 30	"	"	" 5
√ 2	"	"	"	Augt. 1	"	"	" 5
√ 4	"	"	"	2		"	" 5
√ 4	"	"	"	2		"	" 6
√ 7	half dimes	"	"	January 16th 1839		"	" 7
48							

Your letter of the 19th ulto was answered by me on the 4th inst.

I am affected with sore eyes and beg you to excuse this badly written letter

Very Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Hum. Servt
David Bradford
Supt.

To
Dr. R M Patterson
Director
Mint
Philada

To Dr R M Patterson
Director
Mint
Philada.

Express Mail

From }
David Bradford
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
dated Jan. 23. }
recd Feb. 1. } 1839.

February
1839

Mint U.S.
Jan 30 / 39.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, two boxes containing dies, for the New Orleans Mint, which I pray you to forward under your frank, as heretofore.

R. M. P.
D.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury

To/
Sec. of Treasury,

Jan. 30. 1839.

Treasury Department
Jan: 30. 1839.

Sir

I transmit by this Mail a package received from the Superintendant of the Branch Mint at N. Orleans - containing Coins of that Branch reserved for the annual assay.

I remain very Respy
Your Obed: &c
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada.

From
Sec. of Treasury
dated Jan. 30.
rec'd Feb. 1. } 1839.

February 1839

Mint of the U. S.
Jan. 30. 1839.

Sir,

I send, to day, to the Secretary of the Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his frank; two boxes, each containing two pairs of dies, one of dimes, the other of half-dimes.

I wait anxiously for your remittances of the reserved Coins, as our Annual assay takes place on the 11th proximo.

I learn from a letter received by one of our officers, from Mr. Spofford, that you have judged it necessary to discharge him from his place at your Mint. So far as I can understand the matter, from his own representations, you were quite justifiable in the course you have taken. It is true that our Clerk of the Weigh Room has the entire charge of the Treasurer's Vaults both for bullion & coin; but if you, with assent of your Treasurer, chose to separate these duties, it was his duty to yield, and to do so without such an exhibition of feeling as could not fail to be offensive.

R. M. P.
Director.

To/
David Bradford, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ David Bradford, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Jan. 30. 1839.

Mint U.S.
~~Jan~~ Feb. 1st 1839.

Sir,

Your letter of the 23d ult., and your remittance of ~~ass~~ reserved pieces for the annual assay, were both received this morning. The pieces consisted of 41 dimes and 7 half dimes, and their value is $4.45. // This amount you will please to consider as transmitted to me from your ordinary fund, for contingent expenses incurred here, and I shall credit your account accordingly. The deficit thus caused in your bullion account, you will supply, of course, from ~~yo~~ the ordinary fund in your hands.

The same course will be pursued as to the assay pieces, and we will take an early opportunity of letting you know the amount.

R. M. P.
D.

To/ David Bradford Esq
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/

David Bradford, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Feb. 1. 1839.

February 1839

Treasury Department
Feb. 2 1839.

Sir,

The two boxes sent by you on the 30th. ulto. have been received this day and forwarded to N. Orleans as requested.

I remain very Respy
Your Obedt. Servt

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Philada.

From

Sec. of Treasury

dated Feb. 2.
rec'd " 4 } 1839.

Mint of the U. S.
Feb. 5th, 1839.

Dear Sir,

~~I have~~ I received yesterday your letter of the 24th ult., and thank you for the freedom with which you have stated your opinions. I have written, by this ~~Ma~~ mail, to Mr. Bradford, and hope that the measures which I propose will serve to remove your complaints.

I have not answered Mr. Spofford's letter, because I thought it my duty to wait for Mr. Bradford's account of the matter. I think, however, that I can see the ground of the misunderstanding, and that it had its origin in Mr. Spofford's manner. I fear he was disposed rather to push, than to win, his way in the mint; and certainly when the Superintendent, with the assent of the treasurer, marked out the division of duty which he wished him to pursue, he had but two proper courses left him, — and they were either to obey without offensive opposition or to ~~[illegible]~~ resign. Now the division of duty which was proposed was not an unnatural one: it was to give to Mr. Spofford, as *clerk of the weigh-room*, the charge of all the bullion that required *weighing*; but to give the coins, when delivered to the treasurer, to ~~another~~ the direct charge of another clerk. Our course here is, indeed, to give to the clerk of the weigh room the whole immediate charge of *all* the Treasurer's vaults, with coins as well as bullion: but, if your superintendent and treasurer chose to make a different arrangement, for reasons which they judged sufficient, I can see no reason why Mr. Spofford should not have submitted, and submitted ~~with~~ in a manner not offensive. — I have no objection to your stating these views to Mr. Spofford, as the impressions which this most unhappy affair has made on my mind. He is a man of energy, ability, skill, industry, and ~~excellent~~ moral worth, and I much regret that his services are lost to your mint.

Please tell Mr. Tyler that I had a call yesterday from his landlady Mrs. Cooper, she showed me a paper from which I judge that he had intended to make to me a remittance of money. No such remittance, however, has come to me.

Your friends in this Mint are all well, and remember you with the kindest feelings.

Very respectfully & truly,
Yours &c.
R. M. P.

To/
James Maxwell, Esq

To)
James Maxwell, Esq.
New Orleans Br. M.

Feb. 5. 1839.

Mint U. S.
Feb. 5th, 1839.

Sir,

Since my letter to you of the 30th ult., I have received a long communication from Mr. Spofford, ~~and another from Mr. Maxwell~~. giving a more full account of the transactions which ended in his removal. Although the view which I had taken of this matter is not changed, I cannot but express my regret that, considering the circumstances of Mr. Spofford's appointment, you should not have thought proper to give me any account of his dismissal. I had hoped that you would feel the propriety, if not the duty, of freely communicating with me on all matters which concern the business and character of the Branch of the Mint which is under your immediate superintendence, and my "general regulation and supervision".

I regret the removal of Mr. Spofford because I am convinced that he had qualities which you might have found very useful to you. He had talents for business, was a good accountant, was active and industrious, and of unimpeachable moral character. I am aware, however, that he had faults of manner which he seems to have ~~presented~~ exhibited before you in a way to be offensive. If his zeal had been accompanied with more modesty ~~you~~ he would still have been in your employment, and would have been useful to you.

You seem to have been very unfortunate in your clerks, and Mr. Mascall, in a letter of the 24th ult., says that "he has never been able to have a satisfactory settlement, — that the warrants between the treasurer and himself have been made up from his statements alone, — and that not an account as yet has been opened;" — this last meaning, I ~~must~~ presume, the bullion account between him and the treasurer. If this be so, your treasury department must be in a state requiring immediate reform. Let me then pray you to tell me frankly its true condition, and the means which you have taken or propose to take to put it in order. ~~If~~ Is your treasurer an officer competent to the important trust which he holds; are his clerks attentive and industrious men of business? If the affairs of this department of your Mint are deranged, and you desire to have the whole matter put on a footing satisfactory to yourself and me, I will offer you a sure means of doing so, by sending to you, for this purpose, one of the officers of this Mint, Mr. DuBois, who is thoroughly acquainted with the whole system of Mint accounts, and whose manner, I can assure you, will not give offence.

I pray you to communicate to me, with the confidence and frankness which I hope will ever characterize our intercourse, your opinions and wishes as to the subjects of this letter.

R. M. P.
Dir.

To/
David Bradford, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To)
David Bradford, Esq
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

February 5. 1839.

(B)

United States Br. Mint at N. Orleans
Treasurer's Office, 11th February 1839

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of a written communication from you, in which you request me to state in writing,

1° Whether an annual settlement of accounts has been made this year between the Treasurer and Melter & Refiner?

2° Whether the same was satisfactory or not?

3° Whether the warrants between the Melter & Refiner and the Treasurer, have been made up from the statements of the former alone, or from what source?

4° What is the state of accounts in this office — what ones, if any, have not yet been opened?

5° Particularly whether the Bullion accounts between the Melter & Refiner and the Treasurer, has been opened?

6 Generally the condition of the office —

7 That the above enquiries are to be considered as made also in relation to the accounts & transactions between the Treasurer & Coiner — and to answer you at the earliest convenience.

1° The annual settlement of accounts with the Melter & Refiner was made on the 22 January last.

2° I have no reason to believe that said settlement was otherwise than satisfactory, as it has received the signature of both parties.

3 I am not aware that any warrants have been

drawn up from the statements of the Melter & Refiner alone, but the accounts have been compared before full settlement.

4° There is no irregularity or confusion in the accounts in this office. The only point omitted is the transfer from the journal to the ledger, which transfer has not been made in consequence of the ruling of the Ledger not according with the specimens received from Philadelphia, and your request that the entries should not be made until the arrival of Mr Spofford, who however, avowed himself unable to clear up the difficulty.

5° The Bullion account between the Treasurer and Melter & Refiner has been opened and regularly kept; the transfers to the ledger have not been made for the reasons just stated.

6° There is no irregularity in the accounts, or vouchers or books in this office.

7° The following [foregoing] replies to your enquiries relative to the transaction of business with the Melter & Refiner and the state of accounts are equally applicable to those with the coiner.

Respectfully
(Signed) Edm. Forstall
Treas. Br. Mint

To David Bradford Esqr.
Supt Br Mint

Treasury Department
First Comptroller's Office
December 27th 1838

Sir

Your account as Treasurer of the Branch Mint at New Orleans has been adjusted at the Treasury and a balance of $22.628.76 stated to be due from you to the United States.

Balance acknowledged by you to be due is		$2.628.76
To which add		
The following warrants issued since that period for which your account was rendered and therefore not credited by you but with which you stand charged on the books of the Treasury		
No 9118 dated 9 July 1838	$10.000	
" 9447 " 25 August "	10.000	20.000.
		$22.628.76

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
(Signed) J. N. Barker
Comptroller

Edm. Forstall Esqr
Treasurer of Branch Mint
New Orleans

Mint U.S.
Feb. 12th 1839.

Sir,

The Annual Assay was held yesterday before ~~th~~ Six Commissioners appointed by the government, in the presence of the Officers of the Mint, and it was found that your reserved silver coins when weighed together, corresponded exactly with the legal weight; and when melted together and assayed the quality exceeded the legal standard by only one part in 2500. The result was, therefore, in both respects, perfectly satisfactory.

R.M.P.
D.

To/
David Bradford, Esq.
Sup. B. Mint
New Orleans.

To/

David Bradford, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Feb. 12. 1839.

Mint U.S.
Feb. 12th, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst., asking "the full extent to which you can, if necessary, draw on the Mint, without creating serious inconvenience."

I subjoin the statement from which it appears that we have in our vaults silver coins to the amount of $249,730, and gold coins to the amount of 657,900. — As we have often deposits of silver of $100,000 and $200,000, our amount of silver coins could not be reduced without endangering an interruption of our system of prompt payments, — an event greatly to be deplored. But I think you may, without subjecting us to serious inconvenience, draw for half a million, provided you do not specify the kind of coins, so that we make payment in gold.

A treasury draft in favor of the New Orleans Mint, issued Oct. 13. 1838, ~~[illegible]~~ for $50,000, was paid by us yesterday in silver, on a New Orleans

Mint Certificate for a deposite of Silver, due to the Bank of the United States. This operation, you will perceive, increases the New Orleans ~~depos~~ government, deposites $50,000, and diminishes ours to the same amount.

R. M. P.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury.

To/
Sec. of Treasury.

Feb. 12. 1839.

To Cr of
United States Mint Dep. Ap. $206,548.24
United States Bullion Ap. 875,879.38 $1,082,427.62

On hand —
Silver Coins, $149,730.13 in Treas.s Vault.
do 200,000.00 " C. Coiner's do.
349,730.13
Deduct amt.
due Bk. of the U.S. 100,000.00 $249,730.13
Gold Coins in Treas.s Vault. 657,900.00
Total Amount of Coins $907,630.13
Bullion on hand 174,797.49 $1,082,427.62

February 12th, 1839.

Mint of the United States
Feb. 13th, 1839

Sir,

The balance, of $50,000, due on your Mint Certificate No. 10 to Mess. M. De Lizardi & Co., was paid by us on the 11th inst. to ~~the~~ J. Cowperthwaite Esq, Cashier of the Bank of the United States, to whose order it had been endorsed. I send enclosed the cancelled certificate, as your voucher for the government.

The transfer draft from the treasury department, in your favor, upon this mint, issued Oct. 18th 1838, (No. 2271,) and which you had endorsed payable to my order, is thus paid to you by us, and the amount, $50,000, is added to your government deposite, by this transaction.

R. M. P.
D—

To/
David Bradford Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/

David Bradford, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint.
N. Orleans.
Feb. 13. 1839.

U S B Mint New Orleans
February th 1839.

Sir

Your letters of 30th ulto and 5th inst reached me on the 16th and 17th inst. I had heretofore avoided the unpleasant office of informing of the course I had deemed it my duty to pursue in relation to Mr Spofford. My own feelings of propriety prevented me from disclosing that your selection had proved so unfortunate nor could I believe that any duty required me to trouble you on the subject. To the *manner* of Mr Spofford I made no objection; had he not manifested insufferable insubordination, I should have been happy to have retained him in his situation as long as he performed its duties but when he disregarded every instruction, verbal and written which I addreſsed to him and set my authority utterly at defiance he left me no alternative. A sense of public duty alone, without any regard whatever to my own feelings, compelled me to dismiſs him. I confeſs I was deeply disappointed and pained at the conduct of this individual as I had hoped from your recommendation to have found him in all respects qualified for the busineſs of the institution.

An equally painful duty is imposed on me by your letter of the 5th inst. It seems that Mr Maxwell has informed you by his letter of the 24th ulto. to you, that "he has never been able to have a satisfactory settlement — that the warrants between the Treasurer and himself have been made up from his statements alone — and that not an account as yet has been opened." How far these statements are true will appear from a Communication from the Treasurer in answer to my written request a Copy of which is herein enclosed.

To this I will only add that the delay in making up the annual accounts between the Treasurer the Melter and Refiner and Coiner, was occasioned solely by the latter officers, who after their accounts had been rendered adjusted compared and approved were so tardy in closing them, by signing them, that I was on the point of sending them on without their signatures and reporting their delinquency.

(A.) [You enquire "Is your treasurer an Officer Competent to the important trust which he holds?" I have to inform you that his accounts to the 30th June last were adjusted at the Treasury Department as appears by the enclosed Copy of a letter to him from the Comptroller dated December 27th 1838. And the enclosed copy of the communication from the treasurer to me, to the accuracy of which I feel bound from my intimate knowledge of the facts to add my most unqualified aſsurance, will afford you authentic information, and furnishes the fullest answer to your enquiry. For my own part I am perfectly satisfied that there is no derangement in the treasurers Office and no need of any reform. At this time he has but one Clerk, Mr Dimitry, a gentleman fully Competent very attentive and industrious, and as soon as I deem the busineſs of the institution requires it I shall appoint another. The only Clerks appointed by me of my own selection, Mr Dimitry, Mr Durel and Mr Lasere were as highly competent as any individuals to be found in the union. The two last resigned in consequence of the inadequacy of the salary. Mr Lasere at present fills a lucrative and honorable employment in the Legislature of the State]

Permit me Sir in the same spirit of frankneſs and confidence which has induced me to answer every enquiry of yours to request that, in future, Copies of all letters addreſsed to you containing charges against any officer of this Institution be immediately forwarded to me so that in no instance the public interest or the rights of individuals may be violated. I am truely sorry that an occasion should have taken place to render this request neceßary, but your letter of the 5th inst. has satisfied me of its propriety and justice.

Very Respectfully
Your Humble Servant
David Bradford
Superintendent

To

Dr. R M Patterson
Director
Mint
Philada.

From
David Bradford, Esq
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans,
Feb. 18 (?)
39.

Recd. 28th.

Express Mail. Double

PAID

To Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director
Mint
Philada.

Feb 25, 1839

Rufus Tyler & Palmer

You may also wish to

Mint U.S.
Feb. 26/37.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending you a box containing two pairs of dies, which I pray you to transmit, under your frank, to the Mint at New Orleans.

R. M. P.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treas.

To/ Sec. of Treasy.

Feb. 26/39.

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 28th, 1839.

Sir,

I have just received your letter of the February, (date omitted,) and am happy to find it explicit, and, so far as I can judge, satisfactory.

You may rely upon it, that I will receive no charges or insinuations affecting your establishment ~~functions or your officers~~ that shall not be communicated to you, and my letter of the 5th inst. must have convinced you of this. ~~I do not feel it necessary, however, to send you copies of the letters I have received or may receive, unless they shall contain charges officially made.~~ The dismissal of Mr. Spofford drew a long letter from him, which is answered only in my letters to yourself; ~~and certainly, so long as I retain the confidence in you which I now feel, and which I doubt not will~~

~~last as long as our official connexion, I shall consider you my proper correspondent in all that concerns the affairs of your Mint.~~ I have also received letters from Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Tyler, principally ~~personal~~, of ~~[illegible]~~ a private character, but of which every thing that directly concerns your superintendence was promptly communicated to you — except one question which I forgot. It was as to the proper disposition of the assay pieces cut from the bars and ingots. The answer is evident, and is, I do not doubt, in accordance with your own views. As all the bullion, from which the assay pieces are cut, is charged to the Melter and Refiner, so all the metal in the Assayer's hands must be, from time to time, returned to that officer.

There is no circumstance, in the management of the Mints, about which I am more anxious, than that there should be good understanding, kindly intercourse, and cordial cooperation among the officers. This desire is not less felt by the heads of government. In a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury of the 26th ~~ult.~~ inst., he says: "The President, as well as this Department, hopes and believes, that you will do all in your power to reconcile any difficulties which may exist among the Officers of the Branch Mints, and that their operations may be rendered as ~~effective~~ efficient and creditable to all concerned as possible." This remark has more immediate reference to another of the Branches; but, in as far as it may also be applicable to your Mint, I do most sincerely ~~hope~~ and confidently hope that no exertion will be wanting, on your part to bring about mutual confidence and peace.

On the 26th ~~ult.~~ inst., I sent to the Secretary of the Treasury a box containing two pairs of half-dollar dies, for your Mint, which he will forward to you under his frank.

R. M. P.
D.

To/
David Bradford
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Treasury Department
February 28. 1839.

Sir,

The box containing dies for the Branch Mint at N. Orleans transmitted by you on the 26. has been received and forwarded —

I remain very Respy
Your Obedt. Sr
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Philada.

From
Sec. of Treasury.
Feb. 28/39.

Rec. March 2d.

To/
David Bradford
Sup. Br. Mint,
N. Orleans.

Feb. 28/39.

March 7, 1839 - Bradford to Patterson

Mint of the United States
March 12th 1839

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by this mail a pair of half-dollar dies, for the Mint at New Orleans, which I pray you to forward, as heretofore, under your frank.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

To / Sec. of Treasury /
March 12 / 37.

U S B Mint New Orleans
March 17th 1839

Sir

Your letter of the 28th ulto. was received yesterday and I feel truly thankful to you for it; and I assure you, Sir, no exertion shall be wanting on my part to meet the views of the Secretary of the Treasury and yourself.

The two pair of half dollar dies also arrived yesterday and as Mr Tyler has a quantity of planchettes of that denomination, I have requested him to strike them with as little delay as possible, so that our treasurer may pay off his Certificates and augment the Circulation of our Coins which is exceedingly desired.

On the 2nd inst. I requested the Secy of the Treasy to issue a Warrant in your favor for $3000, to pay the balance due you by our treasurer and put you in funds to procure materials for this Branch. Mr Maxwell some time ago requested me to write you to get and send us about three hundred Dollars worth of Nitric and Sulphuric acid in equal quantities. We are at a loss what to do with the empty Car Boys. Mr Maxwell thinks their freight back would be more than they would be worth. Would I be authorized in selling them—or having them sold at Auction? The latter is the Course in the military and naval service. Mr Maxwell also wished me to ask you the price of sand crucibles as there is a gentleman here who ~~offers a lot he~~ has on hand and has had for twenty years, at cost, he says, and Mr M. thinks they would at times be very useful, but none of us have any idea of the prices of such articles.

I remain Your Faithful Humble Servant

David Bradford, Supt.

From/
David Bradford, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

dated March 13. } 1839.
rec'd " 21. }

Mint of the U. S.
March 14. 1839.

Sir,

On the 26th. ult., I sent you thro' the Sec. of Treasy, two pairs of half dollar dies.

On the 12th. inst., I sent you one pair of half dollar dies.

I this day send you two pairs of quarter eagle dies. ¶ Please to acknowledge the receipt of them as they come to hand.

We are now getting dime & half-dime dies ready for you, and they will be sent in two or three days.

Ve—— r——

Y——

(Signed) R. M. Patterson
Director

To/
David Bradford, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ David Bradford, Esq
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

March 14. 1839.

Mint of the United States,
March 14. 1839.

Sir,

I send you, by this mail, a box containing two pairs of quarter-eagle dies, which I pray you to forward, under your frank as heretofore, to the Branch Mint at New Orleans.

Ver

yr

R. M. Patterson
Director.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury.

To/ Sec. of Treasury

March 14. 1839.

March 15 1939

Treasury Department
March 15. 1839.

Sir,

The package, containing dies for the New Orleans Branch Mint came to hand this morning and will be forthwith forwarded to New Orleans.

I remain very Resp'y
Yr. Obed't. &c
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasur

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philad^a.

From
Sec. of Treasury.

dated March 15. }
recd " 18. } 1839.

U. S. B. Mint New Orleans
March 16th 1839

Sir,

I send by this Mail to the Secy of the Treasy a small box, containing aſsay pieces taken from ingots, to be forwarded to you under his frank.

On the other leaf of this letter you have a list of the same and the fineneſs corresponding with the envelopes of the pieces in the Box.

I remain,
Your Faithful Servant
David Bradford
Supt.

To

Dr R M Patterson
Director
Mint
Philada.

From/

David Bradford, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans

Dated March 16 } 1839
Rec'd " 29 }

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director
Mint
Philada.

NEW ORLEANS
MAR
16

18

Preserved assay-pieces taken from the Ingots of the Melter & Refiner, and found to be within the Standard as per the returns of the assayer

	No.		Fineness.
	√ 1 √	"	901.3
	√ 2 √	"	900.4
	√ 3 √	"	899.9
	√ 4 √	"	900.4
	√ 5 √	"	899.9
Rejected	6	"	
do	7	"	
	√ 8 √	"	901.3
do	9	"	
	√ 10 √	"	900.8
do	11	"	
do	12	"	
	√ 13 √	"	901.3
	√ 14 √	"	900.8
	√ 15 √	"	898.6
	√ 16 √	"	898.6
	√ 17 √	"	900.4
	√ 18 √	"	898.2
	√ 19 √	"	900.4

Approved, March 15th 1839

David Bradford
Supt.

Treasury Department
March 15. 1839.

Sir

In reply to your several communications of the 13th., received this morning I have to state."

1st. That the draft for $3000 was remitted to you at the request of the superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans" for the purpose of refunding to the "Director about $2000 - which he had paid for Article," "for this Branch and to procure a supply of acids and "other Materials for this Institution" - A requisition was made by the superintendent of the Branch at Dahlonega for $1200 to be remitted to you - but being informal was returned for correction - as soon as it shall be received in the proper form the draft will be sent.

2 - In relation to the contemplated increase of the deposit at Dahlonega for the prompt payment of Depositors - It will not, it is apprehended, be in the power of the Department to

to increase the amount now on deposite in that Branch, for some time to come, unless it can be spared from the Mint at Philadelphia.

3rd. As relates to the proposed engagement of the Bank of America to procure for the Mint a supply of metal for coinage, from Mexico and South America — I can only remark, that so soon as the State of the Treasury will admit, I am willing to place the necessary amount of funds in the Mint to enable you to enter into such an arrangement — From ~~the~~ present appearances, however, that is not likely to be the case during the current year — On the contrary, so far from being able to increase the amount now there — it is probable I shall be compelled, however reluctantly, to reduce that amount by, ~~probably~~, one or two hundred thousand dollars.

I remain very Respy
Yrs obedt Servt
Levi Woodbury
Secy of the Treasy.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada.

From

Sec. of Treasury

March 15th.

Recd 18th

[illegible]

[illegible] Bank

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] of the

[illegible]

[illegible] the Mint to make

[illegible] arrangement — [illegible]

[illegible] that is not likely to

[illegible] the current year. As the

[illegible] being able to increase the

amount [illegible] it is probable I shall be compelled,

however reluctantly, to reduce that amount by

[illegible] or two hundred thousand dollars.

I remain very respectfully

Your obed. Servt

Sec. of the Treasy.

Dr R. M. Patterson

Director of the Mint

Treasury Department
March 16. 1839.

Sir

The box containing dies for N. Orleans and the package containing cancelled certificates for Charlotte, N. C., referred to in your communication of the 14. have been received and forwarded.

I remain Very Respy
Your Obedt. &c

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasy.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada.

From/ Sec. of Treasury.

dated March 16. } 1839.
rec'd " 18. }

Branch Mint New Orleans March 18th 1839

Dear Sir

Your very kind letter of the 8th instant came duly to hand. Permit me to return you my grateful acknowledgements for the prompt and obliging manner in which you have disposed of my money concerns, and likewise for your friendly regards and advice in relation to my duties as an "Officer of this Branch of the Mint."

In regard to Mr Spoffords case I cheerfully submit to your decision, but as his case appears to me a peculiarly unfortunate one, permit me to reccommend him to your favourable consideration in reference to his pay, as I understand that matter to be left to your decision by our Superintendant — I understand he intends ~~rejoining you~~ taking his passage for your city in a few days

Your anxiety "that good feeling and cordial cooperation should be restored among the Officers of" this "Branch Mint" will by no means be disregarded by me and especially would I have the "President" find me in the line of my duty, and devoting all my energies to the rendering our "operations" "as efficient and creditable as possible"

No one is more willing than myself to acknowledge the authority of a Superior Officer, but I pray you to consider my situation as a peculiarly trying one and which would be ~~is~~ only rendered more difficult by any injudicious interference in the internal policy of my department, I trust however that hence forward all the Officers of this Branch will act and feel towards eachother as becomes their several stations, and as the public service imperatively demands — I am happy to say to you that I have now no fault to find with the new Weigh Master Mr Dimity — as far as my opportunities of of judging extend he ~~is~~ seems a person of excellent business habits, and an estimable man — Altogether the condition of our affairs appears to me to be rapidly improving and I pray that the exertions I have made (and in which I have had no alternative) in order to promote so desirable a result, may not have rendered me obnoxious to the lasting displeasure of our Superintendant

As to the condition &c. of my department I am requested by ~~our~~ the Superintendant to report to him by the last of this month — This report with my former reports to him he has informed me that he intends forwarding to you, you will then have a general outline (though very imperfect) of my operations and proceedings from the commencement, in one view.

A question has lately presented itself to my mind in regard to the security afforded to this Building by the lightning rods affixed to it — As this is a matter beyond my knowledge to determine, I take the liberty of presenting it to your [illegible] better judgement — These rods of which there are three in number one at each of the wings and one at the main or center part of the building

Each rod where it runs along the roof has to be supported at intervals to keep it clear of the building — These supports are iron posts several inches high fastened to the roof and terminating in a loop at the upper end through which the rod passes, the *insulation* at these points is effected by lining the loops with *horn* — 4 or 5 inches cut from ~~it~~ the hollow end of the horn is fitted into the loop and the rod passed through

The striking distance in some instances does not exceed 1½ inches admitting the parts to be dry — The discharges of lightning in this region, are tremendous, beyond any thing ever witnessed at the North — Under these circumstances, do the rods afford us the best protection practicable? ¶ Please to inform Mr Espy that Captain Marsten of the Ship Archer, (Mr Hands line) has lately had "a near view of the most splendid Water Spout" he "ever saw" Mr E will doubtless find his account of it interesting and possibly useful to the cause in which he is so indefatigueably labouring, and in which I feel a deep interest myself - On my passage here I took occasion to bore the Captain with Mr Espy's theory but he did not seem to think there was much use in it he is now satisfied of the fact of an upward current of air in all violent storms, as he says he could plainly see the water streak it up the center of the column which was, at its close, within fifty yards of his ship

Most respectfully

Your friend & se

Rufus Tyler

Dr. R.M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada

Single} Express Mail

NEW ORLEANS LA. MAR 18

PAID

25

To/ Dr. R. M. Patterson

Director of the U. States Mint

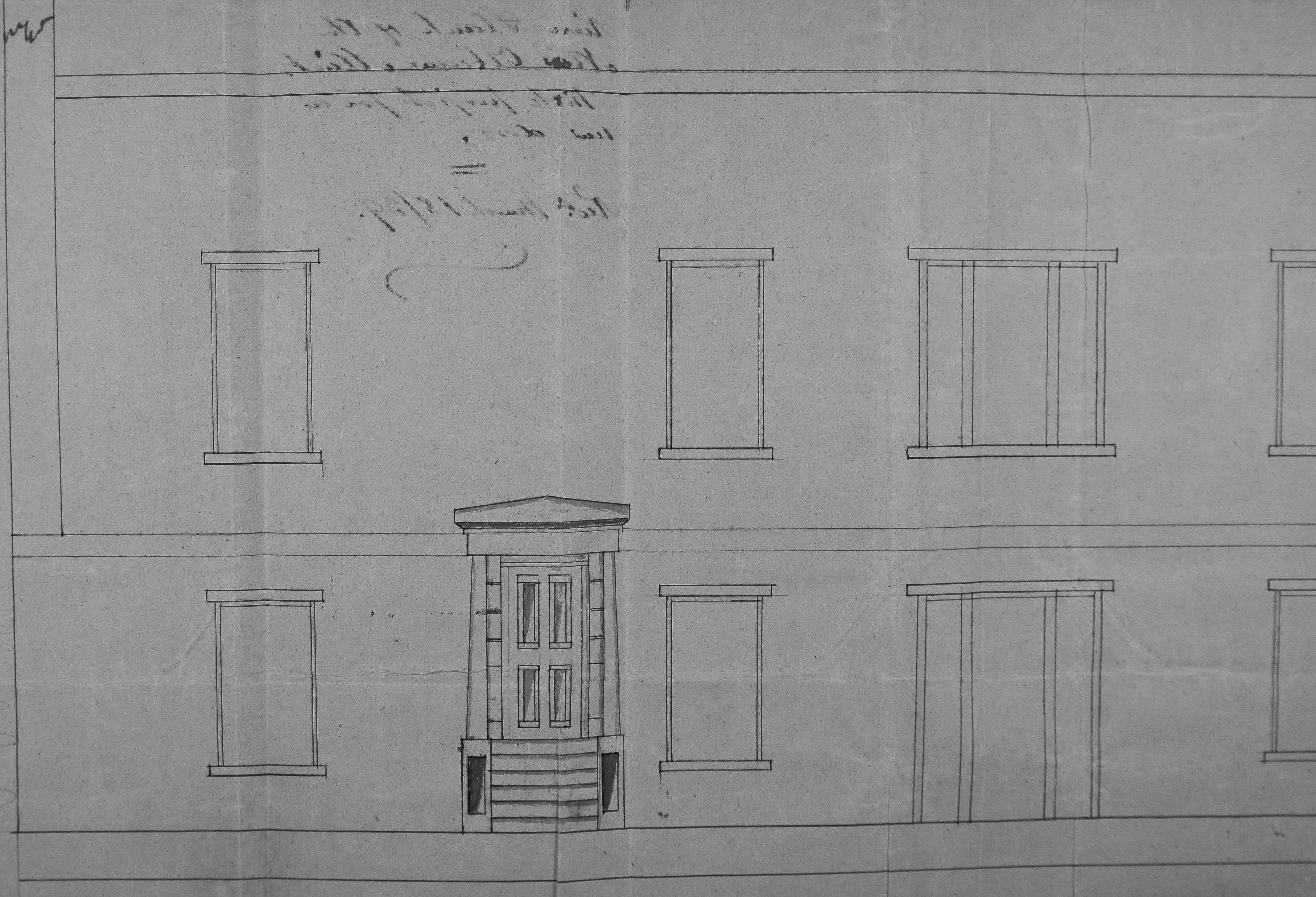
Philadelphia

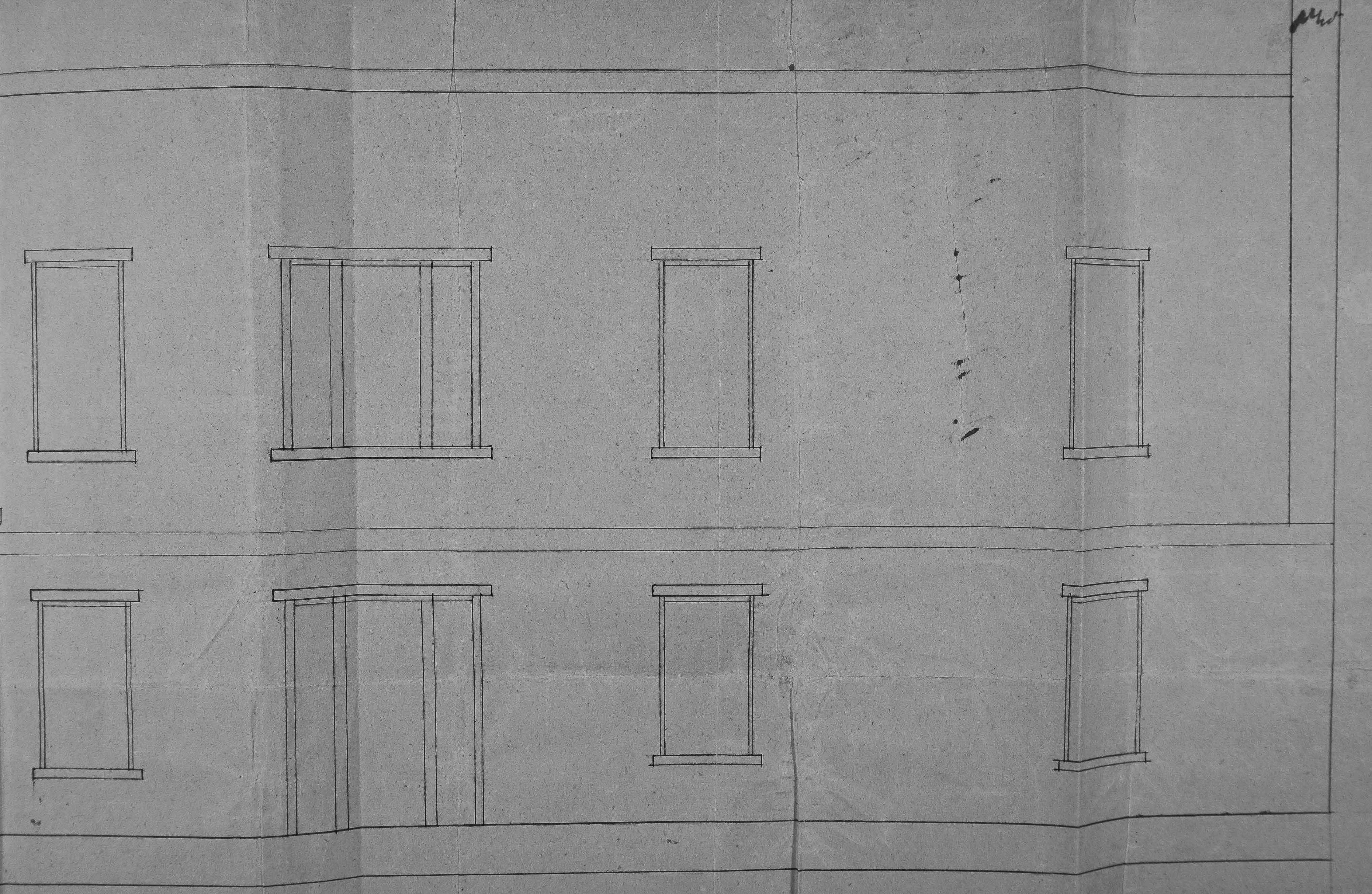
Pa

From/
Rufus Tyler, Esq.
Coinr of Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
dated March 18. } 1839.
rec'd " 26. }

Rear Flank of the New Orleans Mint. With project for a new door.

Recd. March 18/39.





Mint U S

March 19th, 39

Sir,

I sent yesterday a box containing two pairs of dime dies for your Mint, to be forwarded under the frank of the Secretary of the Treasury.

I have duly received, in a draft from the Treasury, three thousand dollars sent to me at your request, and this sum is placed to your credit in the account with your Mint.

The plan of introducing a door in the flank or rather the river front of your Mint building has been submitted to the Architect, Mr. Strickland, and is strongly protested against, as a great deformity. In this judgment I am sorry, on Mr. Tyler's account, to say, that I fully concur. It appears to us, however, that the object might be answered by placing a handsome gateway and flight of steps at the end of the flank, so as to lead up to the portico at the back of Mr. Tyler's residence. I hope that this scheme is practicable, and that it will prove acceptable to Mr. Tyler. The other is very objectionable.

R. M. P.

To/

David Bradford, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ David Bradford, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New-Orleans.

March 19. 1839.

Mint of the United States,
March 22. 1839.

Sir,

I have duly rec'd Your letter of the 13th inst. ~~in just rec'd~~, in which it is stated that ~~you say~~, On the 2d inst. your ~~I~~ requested the Sec. of the Treasury to issue a Warrant in my ~~your~~ favor, for $3,000, to pay the balance due ~~you~~ me by your Treasurer, & put me in funds to procure materials for your Branch.

The draft for $3,000. was rec'd on the 13th inst., and having had no instructions in regard to it, I wrote to the Sec'y, to know its origin & object. He stated in reply that "it was remitted to me at your request, for the purpose of refunding to me about $2000, which I had paid for articles for your Br. &c."

From the above it is evident that you are under a misapprehension ~~very erroneous impression~~ in regard to the state of your Account with me, tho' I am at a loss to determine how you received it. On the 25th of Jan. last, I forwarded to ~~your Treasurer~~ a full Statement of the Account of your Branch, up to Dec. 31. 1838, at which date there remained, as that Statement shows, a balance in your favor of $1,618.66. Since that time, this balance has been increased as follows: —

	Balance Dec. 31st	$1,618.66
Feb. 2/ Cr.	By $17\frac{34}{100}$ ounces Standard Silver, & $\frac{135}{1000}$ ounces Stand. Gold, — being the weight of the Slips transmitted from your Mint, during the year 1838, for assay here, & ~~amounting to~~	$22.67
"	By $3\frac{52}{100}$ ounces Stand. Silver, being your ~~the~~ reserved Coins sent to this Mint for the annual assay, & ~~amounting to~~	4.10
"	By 2 dimes, rec'd June 18.'38, as specimens of the first Coinage of your Br.	.20
		$1,645.63
	Deduct amt. paid out since Dec. 31.	76.25
	And your present balance in my hands is	$1,569.38

On the 3'd of December last, I advanced to Mr. Spofford, on your account, $323.—, which I explained to you in my letter, by Mr. Spofford, dated Dec. 5.'38, and which sum I requested should be repaid to me in your next remittance. This sum I have never taken from your funds here, as it could not properly appear in this act.; I have now deducted it however from your last remittance of $3,000., and have placed to your credit the balance, viz: $2,677, which added to the balance $1,569.38, as above, makes the whole sum standing ~~to your credit~~ to the credit of your Treasurer in my hands — $4,246.38. I ~~therefore~~ enclose ~~to you~~ Mr. Spofford's receipt, though I presume the amount of it was accounted for in your settlement with him.

The acids for Mr. Maxwell's department will be ordered immediately. We think you can hardly want them (Nitric & Sulphuric) "in equal quantities." The proportion in Mr. Peale's department is about 4 carboys of the former to 1 of the latter.

In regard to your empty carboys, ~~I can only say~~
~~that they cost you here, "boxed & capped", $1.50 each;~~
It appears to me, ~~therefore~~, that there can be
~~you can judge therefore whether to sell them or have~~
no doubt that they ought to be sold at New-
~~them returned would be most advisable.~~
Orleans, for the benefit of the Mint.*

The sand crucibles which were last sent to you (in Aug. ~~last~~ '38) cost 60 cents a nest; two casks sent Nov. 1837 cost 50 cents a nest.

R. M. P.

* They cost you here, "boxed & capped", $1.50 each.

~~P. S. We send you to-day, under the frank~~

To/
David Bradford, Esq:
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

March 22. 1839.

Mint U.S.
March 25/39.

Sir,

I send, by the present mail, a box containing two pairs of half-dime dies, for the Mint at New Orleans, which I pray you to forward under your frank, as heretofore.

R. M. P.
D.

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

March 25. 1839.

70

Treasury Department
March 28. 1839.

Sir

I transmit by this Mail a box containing "assay clippings for re assay at the Mint" received, this morning from the Superintendan
of the Mint at N. Orleans.

I remain very Respy
Your Obedt. Sr

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada.

From/
Sec. of Treasury

dated March 28. } 1839
rec'd " 30

Mint of the United States,
March 29th, 1839.

Sir,

The weights which Mr. Hassler has made, under your order, for this Mint and that at New Orleans, have been detained at Washington, for more than a year, for final adjustment, and Mr. Hassler's engagements are such that it seems impossible that he should be able to execute this very delicate and tedious work for a long time to come. Under these circumstances it has been thought most advisable that the weights should all be sent to this Mint, ~~as they~~ in their present condition, and that the adjustment should be made here. For this purpose we have all the necessary means, except a beam to be used for the heaviest weights, such as those of a thousand ounces; — our largest adjusting beam being calculated only for about 500 ounces. Now Mr. Hassler has informed me that he has, in the establishment for weights and measures at Washington, an unfinished beam, of the size required, which is not now necessary there, and which he will send to the Mint, with the weights, if you will give your consent to this transfer. I respectfully beg that you will give ~~your~~ this ~~necessary~~ consent. Such a beam would not only be useful ~~but is essential~~ to the Mint, but is absolutely necessary, and we were about to have one made for weighing silver deposits, — that which we now employ being unworthy of the establishment.

While I had the honor of being with you at Mr. Hassler's rooms, the day before yesterday, I suggested the propriety of making the Mint one of the depositories of a complete set of standard weights and measures. It is a safe place, — one of great public notoriety, — and seems to be peculiarly appropriate. You are aware, I presume, that the legal standard of weight is already by law deposited with us. — Permit me then, most respectfully to renew in writing my application to have a complete set of the weights and measures deposited at the Mint.

R. M. P.
D

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

To/
Sec. of Treasury.

March 29. 1839.

Coiners Office } Branch of the U. States Mint
New Orleans March 29th 1839

Sir

Believing that a fair understanding between the Officers of this Branch Mint, in regard to their respective duties and powers, is essential to the well being and effective operation of this establishment, I beg leave respectfully to ask your deffinition of the law which governs them. also a statement of what has been the practice, at the Mint in Philadelphia, and an expression of your views, as to what should be the regulation at this Branch, particularly, relating to any interference, or direct intercourse, or control, (on the part of the Superintendent) of the men employed in a department, either as to their selection, engagement, or dismissal — also as to the ~~ad~~ admission &c. of visitors —

It appears to me that in the peculiar relationship of the Superintendent and the Officers under his direction, and likewise between the Officers and men in their employ, and considering their respective responsibilities and requisite qualifications, a very *liberal* construction of the law, would be *just and equitable*, and even indispensable to the maintenance of good feeling and effective operation

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
your Obedient Servant

Rufus Tyler
Coiner Br Mint

Dr R. M. Patterson
Director of the U States Mint

over

Sir

Mr Tyler has shown me the within and I concur with him in asking your views on the matters stated.

Yr. Hum Servt

D. Bradford
Supt.

Express Mail

PAID

To/ Dr R. M. Patterson
Director of the U. States Mint
Philadelphia
Pa

From/
Rufus Tyler, Esq.
Coiner of Br. Mint
New Orleans
dated March 29. } 1839.
recd April 8. }

Mint of the U. States
March 30. 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the "box containing assay-clippings for re-assay at the Mint", transmitted through your Department, by the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans.

I will take immediate steps for investigating the unfavorable reports with regard to the New-Orleans Mint, to which you have asked my attention, and will report to you the results when ascertained.

Ver re

(Signed) R. M. Patterson
Director.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury. }

To/

Sec. of Treasury

March 30. 1839.

Mint of the U. States
April 2. 1839.

Sir,

I have duly rec'd Your~~s~~ letter of the 16th ult., with a list of 19 silver assay-pieces, 14 of which you had forwarded to me through the Sec. of the Treasury, for re-assay at this Mint. These have ~~all~~ since been received and assayed ~~by Mr. Eckfeldt~~ proving to be of the following fineness:—

No. 1.	reported	901.3.	found here	900.8
2.	"	900.4.	"	" 900.
3.	"	899.9.	"	" 899.
4.	"	900.4.	"	" 900.
5.	"	899.9.	"	" 899.
8.	"	901.3.	"	" 900.4
10.	"	900.8.	"	" 900.
13.	"	901.3.	"	" 900.4
14.	"	900.8.	"	" 900.
15.	"	898.6.	"	" 898.
16.	"	898.6.	"	" 897.5
17	"	900.4.	"	" 899.5
18	"	898.2.	"	" 897.5
19	"	900.4.	"	" 900.

Weight of the 14 slips = 35 dwts.

The results found by our Assayer are, as you observe, generally lower than those reported by Dr. Hort: the Average of his assays being 900.2, and those of our Assayer 899.4. We do not know to what circumstance this difference is to be ascribed, un-

To/ David Bradford, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

April 2. 1839.

April 1839

less it may be that his test silver is not perfectly pure. I pray you to call his particular attention to this matter.

It appears that all the above Assays show the silver to be within the limits allowed by law, as the Mint remedy, nearly 3 thousandths; but, at this Mint, we make it a rigid rule not to allow a deviation from the standard of more than 2 thousandths, and to this practice you ought to conform in your Branch. The assays of Nos. 16 & 18 are not within this limit.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,

R. M. P.
Director.

To/
David Bradford, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Mint of the United States
April 8th, 1839.

Sir,

In a letter from Mr. Tyler, of the 29th ult., he asks me to give my views as to the "direct intercourse or control, on the part of the Superintendent, of the men employed in a department, either as to their selection, engagement, or dismissal; also as to the admission of visitors." In a post-script you state that you "concur with Mr. Tyler in asking my views on the matters stated."

To this joint application, I answer cheerfully, because I think it important that the exact relations between the officers and the men should be well understood by all the parties, and because, moreover, there seems to me to be no difficulty in defining these relations; — no such difficulty, at least, occurs at this mint.

In the first place, then, I consider the Superintendent of a Branch Mint as occupying ~~as occupying~~ exactly the same position as to its internal government, ~~[illegible]~~

~~that~~ as the Director occupies in the principal Mint. He is its President. To him is expressly committed, by law, the engaging and employing of the workmen, and, as a consequence of this power, it is he alone who can dismiss them. So far there can be no question as to rights and authority.

But now, as to the mode of exercising these rights, we must have reference to expediency and custom, and both these are adverse to the *direct* interference of the Chief Officer of the Mint. The immediate responsibility of each department is with the officer at the head of that department, and he must therefore have the immediate command of his men, and all orders to them should come either immediately from him, or, from the Superintendent, through him. Such has been the invariable course at this Mint, and such, you know, is the course always pursued in the army and navy.

As to the employment of new hands, though this is legally and formally done by the Superintendent, the selection should be really made by the Officer, who recommends his candidate to the

Superintendent. If the selection shall appear to be a proper one the man is employed; if not the officer is asked to name another.

If a man behaves badly, the officer should report him to the Superintendent for dismissal, and, if the reasons are deemed sufficient, the man is accordingly dismissed by the Superintendent.

As to the question of ~~admitting or excluding~~ visitors, the custom here is for the head of a department when, for any sufficient cause, he wishes visitors to be excluded, to apply to the Chief Officer to have this order given, and it is given as a matter of course, and is adhered to unless some special case may be presented requiring that an exception be made.— If the Superintendent ~~I am sure that both you and Mr. Tyler will~~ is not in the Mint, the officer gives, himself, the order to the door-keepers.

I am sure that both you and Mr. Tyler will see the reasonableness of these ~~relation~~ views and customs as to the relative powers & actions of the Superintendent and the other officers of the Mint.

R. M. P.

To David Bradford Esq.
Supt. Branch Mint New Orleans.

To/
David Bradford, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

April 8. 1839.

NEW ORLEANS — 1840

Mint of the U. S.
Jan. 2d. ~~1839~~ 1840.

Sir,

The late Mr. Tyler ordered, from Mr. Marshall, a machinist of this City, a lathe which is now at your Mint, and of which the cost, including castings for a Slide-rest, was $140. He long ago applied to me for the payment of his bill, but I informed him that it could not be paid without an order from you. He accordingly wrote, about the 16th Nov., to Mr. Philos. B. Tyler, to vouch his accounts and procure the desired order. He has just called to say that he has rec'd no answer to his application, & he has prayed me to write to you upon the subject

With great respect,
your faithful servt.,

R. M. P.

(To) Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq
Supt Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Jan. 2. 1840.

January 1840

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 2, 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present Mail, a box containing one pair of Eagle dies, - directed on the inner envelope to the Supt. of New Orleans Br. Mint, to be forwarded as usual under your frank.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. P.
D—.

(Lc)
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

To/

Sec. of Treasury.

Jan. 2, 1841.

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 3'd, 1840

Sir,

I have duly received your letter of the 12th ult., enclosing the bond and oath of Office of Dr. Riddell. These I have transmitted, "approved", to the Secretary of the Treasury.

If I understand the case of Mr. Parker, it is that there was a balance of $50 ~~[illegible]~~ ~~him on his salary for the 2'd quarter of 1839~~ due him, & not drawn, at the close of the 2'd quarter of 1839; although the returns for that quarter showed his salary paid: that ~~by mistake,~~ this balance was subsequently paid to Mr. Parker; but, by mistake, was ~~charged~~ entered in the returns for the 3'd quarter, as so much advanced to him ~~Mr.~~ R, and for which, of course, Mr. Forstall received a ~~[illegible]~~ second credit. Now if there is sufficient evidence for believing this to be the case, Mr. Parker should receive the full amount of his

2d quarter's salary, and the mistake in Mr. Forstall's account be rectified by debiting him with the amt. falsely credited.

R. M. P.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint.
New Orleans.

Mint of the U. S.
Jan. 4. '40.

Sir,

I send herewith a statement of my account, for the last quarter, of moneys in my hands belonging to your Branch Mint, together with necessary vouchers. ~~On the 31 ultimo, there was a balance to your credit of $ 913.37.~~

R. M. P.

(To)
H. C. Cammack, Esq.,
Treas. Br. Mint,
N. Orleans.

To/

W. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasr. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Jan. 24. 1840.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Jan. 3d, 1840.

Mint, U.S.
Jan 7 / 41.

Sir,

In a letter from, ~~the~~ Joseph M. Kennedy Esq., Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint, dated the 17th ult., he asks me "to obtain for him, from the proper Department, a statement of the different remittances made to the New Orleans Mint since it first went into operation, with the amounts appropriated to each particular branch."

Although Mr. Kennedy should have made this application to the Department directly, I must now take the liberty of making it for him, to prevent delay, as it may be necessary for the statement of his annual accounts.

R. M. P.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

Jan. 7. 1840.

Mint U. S.
Jan 7 / 48.

Sir,

I received yesterday your letter of the 17th ult., ~~and I send enclosed a letter~~ respecting the estimates for this year, and I send enclosed a copy of a letter written, in consequence, to the Secretary of the Treasury. I am confident that, with a careful regard to economy, you can keep your expenses below the estimate as I have presented it. Indeed both duty and policy require that this should be done. We have, at this Mint, between fifty and sixty workmen, and our estimate for their pay, for the present year, is but $23,000,— yours being $22000. Our estimate "for incidental and contingent expenses, including wastage of gold and silver, fuel, materials, stationery, water-rent and taxes," is $16,000,— ~~yours is~~ Dr. Hort's, for your Mint, was $25,100. Our wastage, for the past year, was but about $3000, on a coinage of $3,000,000,— Dr. Hort estimates yours at $5,000. I need not tell you that such comparisons would be greatly to the disadvantage of your institution!

I think you justified, by the law of necessity, in employing door-keepers and guards; ~~but the law~~ because these seem to have been overlooked in the law of Congress. But it is not so with the workmen, ~~which~~ the number of ~~which~~ whom it is your duty to keep down to twenty, whatever may be the consequent inconvenience and delay.

At your request, I have applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for a statement of the remittances made to your Mint.

R. M. P.

(Enclosing copy of my letter to Sec. of Treasury, of this day.)

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Jan. 7. 1840.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans January 8th 1840

Sir,

I herewith enclose a copy of the Profit & Loss account of this Mint, which will explain how the balance of $3741.94 has been found. On that subject you will also receive an extract from a letter to our Treasurer by Dr. Hort.

The ingots made during Dr. Riddel's absence were not worked up into coins until after his arrival. He, as you direct, recognizes the transaction as his own act and done under his responsibility. The coins delivered by the coiner were from strips found in the late Coiner's Vault. Mr. Cammack says in a note to me, that "a greater familiarity with the duties of the office will prevent any future irregularity" - I will send you in a day or two the coins reserved since the Coinage has been resumed, and as soon thereafter as it can be completed, the Statement refer'd to in one of your late communications -

Very respectfully
Y. obedt. Servt.
J M Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqre -

Extract -

" In reference to the subject to which you invited my
" attention yesterday, I would remark that the amount
" of about $3000 which appears in the Profit &
" Loss account, has been accumulating from the
" commencement of operations in this Branch Mint.
" In 1838, the deposites were chiefly of Mexican
" Silver Bullion contg gold, requiring separation
" and involving heavy charges - On the very
" first deposite made by Messrs Lizardi in
" Mch 1838, the charge for separation & alloyg
" exceeded $800 - On reference to the 18 Sect of
" the act regulating the operations of the Mint
" of Jan 18th 1837 it will appear that these
" charges are prescribed by law. "That the
" rate of these charges shall be fixed from
" time to time by the Director with the concur=
" =ence of the Secretary of the Treasury &c
" and that the amount received from these charges
" shall be accounted for, & *appropriated for*
" defraying *the* contingent *expenses of the*
" *Mint*."

From/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supt Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Jan. 8. 1840.
Rec'd " 23. "

Mint U.S.
Jan. 11/48.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ult., with the subjoined copy of a letter to you from Dr. Hort on the subject of his Assay-balance. I have consulted ~~Mr. Eckfeldt and~~ Mr. Saxton, (who made the balances) as to Dr. Hort's difficulties, and he thinks that the faults complained of ~~will~~ may be very easily remedied. He recommends the following measures.

1st. If the agate has been deranged by any means, let it be pushed down to its place by the thumb.

2. Let the agate and knife-edge be wiped perfectly clean and dry, and no oil be used on any account.

3. If the Ys ~~which~~ ~~lift~~ used to range the knife-edge do not rise high enough, or rise too high, this defect can be ~~very~~ ~~easily~~ remedied by raising or lowering a roller which will be found under the marble slab, and which is held in its place by a pivot passing through a slot and fastened by a nut, so as be readily adjusted. The Ys must be placed as high as possible, so as not to raise the beam,

4. ~~If~~ The ~~the~~ ivory seats are adjusted by screws in the bottom of the stems attached to them. They must be so regulated as, when ~~raised~~ raised, just to

bring the beam horizontal, without raising the stirrups.

~~I recommend that Mr. Tyler be~~ Mr. Saxton is of opinion that there ~~can~~ cannot be any thing wrong with the knife-edges. I am sure that Mr. Tyler would be perfectly competent to make the adjustments, under these instructions. Indeed I believe that Dr. Hort could make them himself, though he does not claim any acquaintance with practical mechanics. If, however, you fail in your attempts to put the beam in perfect order, ~~I will~~ beg you to let me know, and I will then send you a French beam, now belonging to our Assayer, ~~which he procured from France~~ and, which you can use until your balance can be adjusted here. It is proper to mention, however, that Mr. Eckfeldt's assay balance would cost your Mint $152.38, the price which he gave for it himself.

No one here could make a new assay-balance, worthy of reliance, except Mr. Saxton, and he is so much engaged that he ~~either~~ could not undertake the task, ~~at all, or would require~~ for a long time to come.

R. M. P.
Dr

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

(To) Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Jan. 11. 1840.

(Copy)

Dear Sir,

The amount of Silver Bullion deposited in this Mint since 16 November, is as follows -

Gross weight 24.562.39. Standard 24.292.17 value 28.267.09 Dollars

Gold Bullion

Gross weight 214.55 - Standard 201.461, and value 3748 $\frac{09}{100}$ Dollars.

I delivered to the Melter & Refiner since the recommencement of operations oz 46.527.74, and have received from him in Ingots 41.096.89 ounces of silver -

To the Coiner 47.626.19 ounces, and from him have received in Silver Coins 11.171.87 oz

I have delivered to him in gold 2730.31 oz & received 1262.58 oz.

The coins received have been as follows

50.000 dimes
16.000 half dollars & 9396 quarter Eagles.

Up to 31 December I have paid Certificates of Silver deposits amounting to $8694.71 and of Gold $231.95

The Melter & Refiner and Coiner have both delivered to me the contents of their Vaults which have been weighed and returned to them. As Soon as the allowance for Wastage has been Settled the accounts can be closed for the quarter –

I am your's Sincerely
Signed H. C. Cammack
Treas.r
U.S. Br. Mint
Jan.y 11. 1840

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 15, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send, by this Mail, to your address, a box containing dies for the Branch Mint at New Orleans, — and to request that you will ~~remove the outer envelope, &~~ ~~for~~ forward it under your frank, as directed upon the inner envelope.

Very respectfully,

R. M. P.
Dr.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

P. S. My annual report is delayed in consequence of my not having yet received the last reports from Charlotte & New Orleans.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

Jan. 15. 1840.

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 15. 1840.

Sir,

I send, by the present mail, to the Secretary of the Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his frank, a box containing one pair of dime, and one pair of half-dime dies, for the present year. We shall continue to forward others, in the same way, until your Mint is fully supplied. As the loss of any these dies ~~might be followed by~~ might be a serious evil, I beg you to be particular in acknowledging their receipt. ~~Let me refer you call your attention to~~ my letter of June 4, 1839, to your predecessor, will show you what ~~respecting~~ ~~the~~ disposition is to be made ~~of the dies~~ of ~~1839~~ last year's dies.

I ~~would~~ ~~ask~~ ~~call your~~ will thank you call the particular attention, ~~and~~ ~~that~~ of your Coiner ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~following~~ to the exact measure which has been adopted for the diameters of the coins. They are ~~fixed~~ as follows, in thousandths of the inch:

Diameter of the Half-dime $\frac{600}{1000}$ ~~of an inch~~
" " " Dime — — $\frac{700}{1000}$ ~~" " "~~
" " " Quarter-dollar $\frac{950}{1000}$ ~~" " "~~
" " " Half-dollar $1\frac{200}{1000}$ ~~" " "~~
" " " Quarter-eagle $\frac{700}{1000}$ ~~" " "~~
" " " Half-eagle $\frac{850}{1000}$ ~~" " "~~

The allowance which should be made for the

expansion of the collars in hardening is for
the Half dollar — $\frac{5}{1000}$ of an inch
" Quarter dollar $\frac{3}{1000}$ " " "
" Half-eagle $\frac{3}{1000}$ " " "

that is, the collars ~~are~~ should be turned thus much smaller than their proper diameter, and are made right by the expansion of the metal in hardening. The allowance for the ~~dime~~ half-dime, dime, and quarter-eagle collars is too small for exact measurement.

R.M.P.
D

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Jan. 15. (16) 1840.

Eagle 1.050 inch diam
allowance for Expansion 0.004

Treasury Department
January 18. 1840.

Sir

The box containing dies for the Branch Mint at N. Orleans transmitted by you, has been received and forwarded as requested.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt. Servt.
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson.
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia.

From/

Sec. of Treasury.
Jan. 18. 1840.
Rec'd " 20. ~

Mint of U. S.
Jan. 18. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send ~~enclosed~~ ~~to your address~~, by the present mail, to your address, a second box of dies, directed to the Supt. New Orleans Br. Mint, ~~and~~ ~~which~~ and to request that it may be forwarded under your frank.

R M P

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury }
Sec. of Treas. }

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

Jan. 18. 1840.

New Orleans January 19th 1840

Doct Patterson
Director US mint
Philadelphia

Sir When I last Saw you in Philadelphia I understood You to Say that there Was nothing in my testimony that Could give offence that I might Return to New orleans With perfect Safety, & that even if Mr Tylor Was prejudiced against me it was not he but Mr Kennedy Who had the right to appoint Workman Your Convesation induced me to believe that I Should experience no Difficulty in being reemployed on my arrival, Mr Tylor Said he had no use for my Services I applied to Mr Kennedy Who put me off for Some time and then told me that he had received aletter from You altogather unfavorable to my application for reemploymt Stateing that You had not given me any encouragement but rather the Contrary, Now Sir I must Say that I think it A very hard Case that Dennie, Harmsted, moore, & myself Who Remained During the greater part of the Summer, and had the Yellow fever While in the Service of the united States, Should be Without any cause turned off We had escaped the fever had become acclimated & had gained much experience in the

Mint, & Ware requested by the late Superintendent to return to our posts, I think this is poor encouragement for Workman to leave the north, & run the risk of there lives and leaveing their families Destitute, by being employed in the mint at New Orleans, I have Waited for some time to Write on this Subject but my feelings have at last Compelled me to Do it—

I am very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W. D. Johnson.

From
W. D. Johnson
N. Orleans
Jan. 19/40
Recd. 31st.

NEW ORLEANS
JAN
LA.

Doct R. M. Patterson Esqr
US Mint
Philadelphia
Pa

Treasury Department
January 20. 1840.

Sir

The Box of dies received this morning has been forwarded to the Sup. Br. Mint at N. Orleans in compliance with your request.

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treas.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Philada.

From/
Sec. of Treasury,
Jan. 20. 1840

Rec'd " 22. "

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 21. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith, a third box of dies for New Orleans Br. Mint, which I beg you to forward as before under your frank.

R.M.P.
Dr.

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasy.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

Jan. 21. 1840.

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans January 21. 1840

Sir

I have received your letter of 4th instant with a statement of your account. There is still a difference of $525. between yr account and the books of this office, being the amt of two drafts drawn by the late Superintendent and not credited in the books, about which I have had no instructions.—

The accounts for Contingent & ordinary expenses for 4 qr 1839 are closed & will be forwarded in a day or two. The bullion accounts will be ready in a few days.

I am very sincerely & truly
Yours
H. C. Cammack
Treasurer

To
Dr R. M. Patterson
Director
U S Mint.

From / H. C. Cammack, Jr.
Treasr. Br. Mint,
N. Orleans
Jan 21/40.
Recd. Feb 3d.

Mint of the U. S.
Jan. 22. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to request, that you will forward to New Orleans, under your frank, the accompanying box of dies, for the Branch Mint at that place.

R. M. P.
D.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treas.

To/ Sec. of Treasury,

Jan. 22. 1839.

Treasury Department
January 23. 1840

Sir,

The box of dies referred to in yours of the 21st. has been received and forwarded to the Superintendant of the Branch Mint at N. Orleans

Very Respectfully
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treas'y.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada.

From
Sec. of Treasury
Jan 23/40.

Rec'd. 26th.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans January 23rd 1840

Sir,

I forwarded to you by the mail of the 21st instant, under cover to the Secretary of the Treasury, the assay coins reserved from deliveries made at this Mint, during the last month and of which the following is a memorandum =

10 Dimes	Taken from a delivery of 10.000 Dimes made 5 Dec. 1839	$ 1.00
4 1/2 Dollars,	Taken from a delivery of 16.000 half Dollars made 30 Dec. 1839	2.00
1 1/4 Eagle,	Taken from a delivery of 9346 1/4 Eagles, made 30 Dec. 1839	2.50
		$ 5.50

I herewith enclose a copy of a letter, received by me a few days ago, from our Treasurer. It shows what we have done, since the recommencement of operations. The allowance for Wastage, of which he speaks, has been settled. The accounts for the last quarter are closed, and they will be without delay forwarded to the Treasury Department.

I will transmit to you at the same time an abstract thereof.

In reference to the Lathe sent to Mr. Rufus Tyler in November 1838, you will find, upon inspection of a letter, written at that time, by that gentleman to Mr. Marshall (which I presume he has kept, and a copy of which I have seen) that it was not ordered for this Institution, but, I think, for the New Orleans and Nashville Rail Road Co. That which was purchased for the Mint in Septr. 1838 has been paid for, and Mr. Marshall's receipt for the money ($135.) has been found among the papers of the late Comr. by his brother, and placed in my hands.

I have been requested by the Melter and Refiner to get you to send out for the use of his Department one set of Troy weights, ounces and decimals, from 50 oz to 0.01 = 1/100 of an ounce together with the balance, also 50 carboys of Nitric Acid. - Our dies for this year have not yet arrived. - We are expecting them with the utmost anxiety. - As all the officers of the Mint appear now thoroughly to understand their

Receipt. I think that we shall get along to the entire satisfaction both of the Government and the Public –

Very respectfully

Yr. Mo. Obedt. Servant

Jos. M. Kennedy

Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqr.
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Philada.

From/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Jan. 23. }
Rec'd Feb. 6. } 1840.

February 1840

1840

1840

1840

1840

1840

Treasury Department
January 25. 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 22nd.. and of the box of dies referred to, which will be forwarded to N. Orleans.

As objections are made at the Post Office, to the transportation of such heavy packages by mail, I would suggest the expedience of having the sets divided hereafter, and sent by different mails.

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Philada.

From
Sec. of Treasury.
Jan. 25/40.

Rec'd. 27th.

Mint U.S.
Jan 30th, 1840.

Sir,

I received yesterday your letter of the 27th inst., with the accompanying statement of the expenditures by Mr. Forstall and Mr. Cammack, out of the appropriations made for the Building and Machinery for the Branch Mint at New Orleans.— In your letter you ask me to inform you "whether the outhouses, which have cost very large sums, were built under my direction or with my sanction, and if not, by whose direction they were erected, and of what they consist." You also mention "that there are some heavy charges for furniture, marble mantels, &c.," and ask "whether these expenditures were authorised by me, and whether all or how many officers of the Mint reside in the buildings."

To your several inquiries, I have now the honor to present the following answers.

The plans for the Mint Building at New Orleans were prepared under the direction of my predecessor in office, and, having received the approbation of the Department, their execution was committed to Martin Gordon Senr., as Commissioner for this purpose. In December 1835, he made a visit to Philadelphia, and on the 17th of that month, I wrote to you a letter, of which the following paragraph is an extract.

"Gen. Gordon, of New Orleans, is now with me. We have carefully studied the appropriation of the apartments in the Branch Mint, now building, and find, that besides accommodating all the machinery and operations of the Mint, residences may be found for at least three of the Officers, and this without extending the building, or increasing the cost. Gen. Gordon will show you the plans sent with, and submit them for your approbation."

You will observe, then, first, that no new building or out-building was proposed; secondly, that no increase of cost was ~~contemplated~~ to be incurred; and, thirdly, that your approbation was to be obtained by the Commissioners.

In a letter, from Gen. Gordon, of Dec. 27, 1836, after speaking of the ~~deficiency~~ insufficiency of the appropriation for completing the whole building, he says: "the part now finished, or nearly so, will be sufficient to go on with the operations of the Mint upon a confined scale. I apprehend, however, that but a temporary inconvenience can be experienced by the Officers of the Mint, till the other wing is finished, which will make the ~~other pre~~ edifice complete, according to the plan approved by the Secretary of the Treasury. It must, however, be observed, that the approval was confined, as respects the expenditures, to the appropriation made by Congress." — In a subsequent part of the same letter, he says, "When the whole edifice is completed, it will be conveniently calculated for the operations of the Mint, and the accommodation of all its officers with the exception of the Superintendent."

The officers who now reside in the

building of the dwellings at Mint for the Treasurer, the Coiner, and the Melter & Refiner; and I deem their residence there of great importance to the public interests, by ~~securing~~ ensuring their constant presence ~~th~~ at the place of their business, and by the increased ~~security~~ ~~safety~~ security as well as efficiency thereby afforded.

I know nothing of the erection of out-houses, nor have any been ~~erected~~ built under my direction ~~or~~ with my sanction, — the erection of buildings not having been placed under my control. It is evident, however, that some out-buildings must have been necessary, though I cannot conceive that they should have been of a costly character, and I am much surprised at the amount of the bills for this purpose.

On the subject of the furniture purchased for the Mint, I get my first information from the statement ~~of~~ which you have sent to me. Book-cases, tables, desks, chairs, were certainly necessary, as were also mantels and grates. The true question is whether the expenditures, under these heads, were made with a due regard to economy. Mantels seem to enter very largely into the accounts, but as they are always mixed with other ~~articles~~ items in the statement, and as some of these, — such as railing, labor, castings, — may have been very costly, it is difficult to judge of the degree of extravagance in this ~~item~~ article.

~~My letter of the 28th~~ inst; contains ~~all~~

My letter of the 20th gives some account of my own expenditures on account of the New Orleans Mint; as to all others, I am, as you must perceive, very imperfectly informed. It is certain that expenses at New Orleans cannot be judged by the tariff of charges in the northern parts of the United States.

R. M. P.

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

10

To/ Sec. of Treasury
June 3. 1840.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans January 30. 1840

Sir,

I recd by the mail of yesterday one set of dime, and one set of ½ dime dies for the year 1840, and was much disappointed, at not getting those of all the other denominations, at the same time. We have a great quantity of bullion on hand, and have certificates out to a large amount, which we are extremely anxious to pay off at an early day. I have, since the first of the month, under the advice of the District Attorney rather than suspend operations, with the expenses of the Government running on, kept the Coiner at work, with such of the old dies, as were fit for use, but great care has been necessary in order to make them last as long as possible, and this has of course produced delay. I beg that you will lose no time in sending out the other dies.

Respectfully
yr obt Servt
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqr
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Pa.

From/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
N. Orleans.
Jan. 30. 1840.
Rec'd Feb. 12.

Treasury Department
January 31. 1840

Sir

I transmit to your address by this mail a package of Coins ~~for~~ assay received this morning from the Branch Mint at N. Orleans.

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Philada.

From /
Sec. of Treasury
Jan 31 / 60.
Recd. Feb. 3 /

Mint U.S.
Feb. 3d, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ult., and of the coins for the annual assay sent therewith from the Mint at New Orleans.

I have received, this morning, from the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint, a letter of the 21st of January, but I am still without the information for which my annual report was so long delayed. From the endorsements on the packages of Assay pieces sent, it would appear that the ~~[illegible]~~ coinage, since the resumption of work at that Mint, has been

In quarter eagles,	$ 23,490.
In half dollars,	8,000
In dimes,	1,000
Total —	$ 32,490

I am more curious, however, to know the amount of their deposits.

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 30th inst., ~~with the President's appointments of~~ naming, under the President's instructions, the Additional Commissioners for the annual assay. ~~Mess~~ Col. Biddle and Dr. Bache accept their appointments. The letter to Mr. Ingham has been forwarded to Harrisburg, where he is at present.

R.M.P. D.

to Sec. of Treasury.

To/ Sec. of Treasury,
Feb 3/40.

Feb 6th 1840

U.S. Branch Mint New Orleans.

To

Dr R. M. Patterson
Director U.S. Mint

Dear Sir

I have recieved from our Superintendent two pair of Half dollar dies and some of smaller denominatio

I have to request that you will make some allowance for my want of experience in tempering the dies, and would remind you of their liability to crack in hardening &c. I beg therefore you will send us a sufficient number to prevent any delay for want of them, and in a short time I will inform you of my success in using them. I would thank you to state to me the number of coins that each pair should stamp when properly tempered.

As you have requested me to write you on all matters connected with the Mint, I would mention that ~~a~~ I think we are labouring under much inconvenience, for want of ~~proper~~ instructions from you, in relation to the duties of the Several officers, and rules of the Mint generally

I beg you will mention particularly of the number of hours required of the workmen per day, including the time of eating their dinners, which you know is always done in the Mint and requires but a few minutes, and whether or not, it is customary to allow them pay for time worked over the regular hours when it is necessarily required of them (excepting the fireman who comes before the others to raise steam &c

I have received through the Supt. your instructions in regard to the size of coins, and the only diffeculty I fear, is in procuring the proper inch.

I expect to have the quarter dollar press in opperation about the middle of March.

Very Respectfully
Your Humble Servant
Philos B. Tyler
Coiner

To
R. M. Patterson
Director

(From) Philos B. Tyler, Esq.
Coiner Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Feb. 6. }
Rec'd " 17. } 1840.

NEW ORLEANS LA.
FEB
6

To Dr. R. M. Patterson,
Director U.S. Mint
Philadelphia
Pa

than 1000, we receive them as of the Standard 897, unless a careful inspection of them should lead the Assayer to suspect their quality, or unless he should see a large proportion of them to be from the Zac~~k~~atecas Mint, (marked Z,) as these are a little below 897, though probably they may run to 896.

When there is a large ~~delivery of~~ deposits of Mexican dollars, say 50,000, they are all spread over the floor, ~~and mix~~ being strewed about so as to mix them as thoroughly as possible, and two parcels of 1000 dollars each are taken out promiscuously, and melted separately into bars, which are assayed. If the assays of the two specimens agree, this is adopted as the standard of the whole. If they differ, a third melt is made.

In a letter from Mr. Cammack, of the 16th ult., which I received the day before yesterday, he makes an inquiry about "the right to change American coins," which is so obscurely expressed, that I am in doubt whether I understand it. I will, however, ~~[illegible]~~ frame my answer to suit both the interpretations of which it is susceptible. And, first, if the recoinage of our own coins be referred to, I have to state that this must be refused in any case except that of gold coins made before the standard was changed in 1834. If it be meant ~~that~~ to inquire whether, (all ~~outst.~~ certificates being paid off,) deposites may be paid for with coins which you have at the Mint, I answer — certainly. You have a public fund ~~deposite~~ at your Mint, for this very purpose, under the provisions of the ~~dep~~ act of July 1836 regulating the deposites of public money. (Mint pamphlet p. 27.)

The supply of acids respecting which you make inquiry, was ordered on the day on which your application for it was received.

I will see what can be done to supply you with an additional set of weights. The set asked for by Mr Tyler and the is boxed up and will be sent by the first opportunity.

R. M. P.
D. M.

To Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

March 4. 1840

Mint of the U.S.
Feb. 6. 1840.

Sir,

I have this day transmitted to the President a Supplementary report, containing the complete Statement of the operations of the ~~operations of the~~ New Orleans Mint for the past year, of which I send you a copy enclosed.

R. M. P.
Dr

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury.
Sec. of Treasury

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

Feb. 6. 1840.

Mint of the U. S.
Feb. 7. 1840.

Gentlemen,

I will thank you to have prepared & shipped, as soon as practicable, to the U.S. Branch Mint at New Orleans, fifty carboys of Nitric Acid.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
per Geo. F. Dunning,
Director's Clerk.

To/
Mess. John Farr & Co.,
Manuf. Chemists,
Coates' Street
Phil.

To/ John Fan, & Co.
Coates' St.

Feb. 7. 1840

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
February 8th 1840

Sir,

Since my last letter to you, announcing that one box had come to hand, containing one pair of dime, and one pair of 1/2 dime dies, we have recd three others, the four boxes containing altogether eight pair of dies for the year 1840 - viz -

2 pr dimes
2 do 1/2 dimes
2 do 1/2 dollars
1 do 1/4 dollars &
1 do 1/2 Eagles -

They are now being adjusted &c in accordance with your instructions -

I have found your letter of the 4th June 1839, to which you refer for the manner in which the old dies are to be cancelled, and will in a short time send you the required report in relation thereto.

Mr Slidell has presented his bill. His charge is One thousand dollars, and, as I informed you some time since, he looks to our Branch for payment - I submit this charge for your approval, and would like to hear from you in relation to it, as soon as convenient.—

We do not find, either in the law, or in any of the letters or instructions from you any information relative to the distribution of the twenty workmen allowed to this Mint. One of them, we know, belongs to the Assay department but of the remaining nineteen, I wish you to decide as soon as possible, whether the Coiner is entitled to 15, or the Melter and Refiner to 5.

We have not yet recd a copy of your instructions dated May 25. 1838—

Respectfully your
Obed. Servt.
J M Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqr.
Director U. S. Mint, Pa.

NEW ORLEANS LA.
FEB
10

R. M. Patterson Esqre.
Director of the Mint of
the U. S.
Philadelphia

From / Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Feb. 8. 1840.
Rec'd " 22. "

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans 10 February 1840

Dear Sir,

Want of leisure and domestic misfortune have prevented me from writing to you at an earlier day. I arrived home from Texas on the 5th Dec. and immediately entered upon the duties of my office as Melter and Refiner. I was not aware of my appointment until three or four days before my arrival.

For the purpose of exploring the rich mineral country near the San Saba, and of making botanical collections in those previously unexplored regions, I joined a company of Indian rangers, and was six weeks in the wilds beyond the frontier settlements. During my travels I collected, preserved, and on the spot minutely described, between 100 & 200 new species of plants. I should like to publish the same with drawings. Be good enough to ascertain whether the Am. Phil. Society would like such communications for their Journal. I should like a colored copperplate engraving of every remarkable new genus or species. I am aware it would be expensive, more so than I would care to undertake singly. The drawings I have begun. The size of the

Journal of the Am. Phil. Soc. suits me much better than the Small Octavo of the Phil. Acad. of Natural Science.

Since the 1st of Jan. I have received from our treasurer 37.139.^{oz} 90^{dec} of Silver Bullion containing gold, besides a pretty large amount of gold containing silver. There was but one whole glass mattrass in the separating room. Some two weeks since we received a supply, and have since separated about 1000 lbs of Bullion. You will be written to by our Superintendant to decide whether my department is entitled to four or five men. I claim two in the separating room, and three in the melting room, as being in accordance with first arrangements, and the least number adequate to go on simultaneously with the business of both rooms.

I shall be thankful for communications relating to Melting and refining – the results of experience, – especially in reference to the best modes of recovering a small amount of silver or gold from a large amount of dirt, old pots, ashes &c. &c.

In what condition should clippings be delivered from the coiners? It has occurred to me that as great surface is exposed, and the allowance 2 0/00ths only on each draft, – the same as on ingots, the clippings ought to be clean. The fault I have found with Mr. Tyler's clippings is, that in burning off the grease, he has by a smothered combustion left a thin coating of charcoal and bituminous matter sometimes. Now Mr. T. and myself are good friends, and I do not wish to be understood as finding fault with him. We have neither of us the experience, to know how the matter should be,

The treasurer has proposed to me to receive and melt into ingots, without assaying previously, the deposites of Mexican, Spanish and French silver coins. At what weight and fineness should I so receive them?

I came near forgetting one subject. Our workmen are very willing, aye, even rather disposed, to make what *they* call over time. that is, to be paid for, from one or two to six days extra in a month. If it be a rightful perquisite of our workmen over others who labor, — sanction by your customs in Philad. — all is right. If not, I should like your advice.

Harmony and good feeling prevail among us.

Yours respectfully
J. L. Riddell.

Dr. R. M. Patterson.

From/
Dr. J. L. Riddell,
Melter & Refiner, Br. Mint
N. Orleans.

Feb. 10. } 1840.
Rec'd " 22. }

PAID

Dr. R. M. Patterson,
Director of the Mint,
Philadelphia

NEW ORLEANS
FEB
10

Mint U.S.
Feb. 11 / 40.

Sir,

I have the honor to send to you herewith a copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the Commissioners for the annual assay held yesterday. You will see that the trial proved the standards and weights to be all within the ~~law~~ legal limits, and they were approved accordingly. They were indeed all perfectly satisfactory except the quality of the gold coins from the New Orleans Mint which was on the very verge of the legal limit, — being 1⅞ thousandths above standard where the limit is 2 thousandths. I will call the attention of the New Orleans Assayer, Dr. Hort, to this circumstance.

R. M. P.
D

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treas.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

Feb. 11. 1840.

Mint U.S.

Feb. 12th / 40.

Sir,

~~It~~ I regret to state that the information, asked for in my letter of the 17th of December, to enable me to make up my annual report to the President, was not received by me until the 6th inst., not having been sent from New Orleans until the 23d ~~of~~ ~~January~~ ult. Now the ~~act of~~ law requires that my annual report be presented in the month of January, and it has heretofore been sent about the 16th. On this occasion, it was delayed to the end of the month, and was then sent ~~uncompleted~~ incomplete, as to your Mint, with the reason of course stated. ~~You seem not to have been aware of the necessity~~ The Secretary of the Treasury instructs me to inquire of you the reasons for this delay of your statement; but I am confident it must have been caused by your not adverting to the terms of the 2d Section of the ~~Act~~ Mint Act of 1837, of which a copy is in your hands. I will beg you, in future years, to give the information required for the Director's Annual Report, at the earliest possible day after the close of the year.

The Commissioners for the Annual Assay &c had their meeting on the 10th inst. As to your Branch the report states that the gold pieces agreed in weight with the standard, and the silver pieces were inferior in weight one part in 6500: that the gold pieces exceeded the standard in fineness one part and seven-eighths in one thousand, and that the silver pieces were superior to the standard in fineness one part in 1250.

The trial thus showing the pieces to be according to law, they were approved, but it is necessary to state that the result of the gold assay was not satisfactory, ~~in~~ ~~as much as~~ as it approached so close upon the limit that would have caused its rejection. Although the *law* allows a variation of two thousandths, as a limit, ~~it should be~~ the *mint* limit should not be ~~all~~ more than one thousandth. The variations from standard, for the other Mints, did not exceed half a thousandth. It is but justice, however, to Dr. Hort, to say, that the very small amount of your gold coinage placed him at a disadvantage. Where there are a great many melts, some will be above and others below standard, and the compensation of errors will ~~be~~ make its appearance in the general assay of the reserved specimens. ‡ See End of paper

Your letter of the 30th ult. was received this morning, acknowledging the receipt of sets of dime and half-dime dies. I hope that you have, by this time, received all the varieties of dies, for which you show so proper an anxiety. They were forwarded to you as follows:

1 pair dime } 15th Jan. — acknowledged.
1 " half dime
1 " dime } 18th "
1 " half-dime
1 " half-dollar } 21st. "
1 " half eagle
1 " half dollar } 22d "
1 " quarter-dollar

Your order for acids, of the 23d Jan., has been attended to.

You ask, in the same letter, for a balance and set of weights for the Melter and Refiner. I hope that this expense and trouble may not be deemed necessary. The balance would have to be procured from France, for I know of no one here who could make it, except Mr. Saxton, and he is fully engaged at this Mint. The weights would have to be made by Mr. Hassler, at Washington, and would probably cause a delay of many months. Our Melter and Refiner has always made use of the

Treasurer's balance, and I hope that this course may not be found too inconvenient for yours.

R. M. P.
D.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
N. Orleans.

It may be proper to mention that when your reserved coins were ~~examined~~ opened by the Commissioners, they were found to correspond to your lists.

~~Allow me to ask your attention to my instructions of the , with regard to the number of pieces to be reserved at each delivery. We are under the impression that your gold coins were not sufficiently represented. There was but one piece from the last delivery.~~

Allow me ~~also~~ to ask your attention to my instructions of Feb. 14 + Oct. 13. 1838, with regard to the ~~quarterly~~ monthly reports of the operations of your Mint.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Feb. 12. 1840.

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office 14th Feby. 1840

Sir

I beg to enquire from you what is the custom of the Mint in Philadelphia in receiving deposits of Coins in large sums, such as Mexican or Spanish Dollars, and French five franc pieces.— Are not these sometimes taken at a standard, which experience has proved to be an average one, without melting for assay.— If I mistake not I was told at the Mint last summer, that Mexican Coins are received there at 897.— In such case what sort of Certificate is the Treasurer to receive from the Assayer?—

I beg also to enquire how far I have the right to change American Coins, after all the outstanding Certificates are paid, (which I hope will be done within this month) for the purpose of having the latter recoined by this Mint.— I make this enquiry because this Mint will soon use up all the Bullion on hand, and will require a further supply on which to work.— Any quantity of foreign Coins can be obtained by exchanging for them our own, but until we can give some assurance of the product of such operations, Banks & individuals will not take the risk by depositing largely.—

A large amount of foreign Coins are in the

Vaults of the Banks, which they would be glad to convert into american Coins, if to be done without loss to them. - Most of the deposites now made are in small sums, by parties who want half dimes. - Application has been made by depositors, for half Dimes to be sent to the Havana, these are most wanted here and pass generally for 6¼ cents, while Dimes in our Markets will ^hardly^ not pass for more. -

We are very much in want of one or two additional setts of weights, there is now but one sett in the Mint, which is continually in motion between the Weighmaster, Melter & Refiner and Coiner; all three, being compelled to use this one sett.

I am very truly & faithfully
Yours
H. Cammack
Treasurer

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

From /
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Feb. 14. } 1840.
Rec'd March 2 }

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U.S. Mint
Philadelphia

NEW ORLEANS LA.
FEB
18

March
1840

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 19. 1840.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Marshall has just called on me, and states that he has sent to New Orleans, in all, four lathes, viz:

1 of 7 inches centre, at $ 375.–
1 of 14 " " , " 770.–
2 of 5 " " , " 135.– each.

Of these, the first two were for the Mint at New Orleans, and have been paid for here, (the duplicate receipts being now before me,) and are, I presume, the only lathes now at your Mint.

The two small lathes, as Mr. Marshall states, were sent to your late brother in obedience to his orders. ~~contained in~~ of ~~March 1st, and Nov. 30th, 1838.~~ The first was sent in April, 1838, having been ordered ~~by your brother~~ in a letter ~~(which is now before me)~~ by your brother dated March ~~your brother~~ 1. 1838, and was paid for in Sept., 1838, when ~~he~~ he was in Philad. — The last was sent in Jan. 1839, as ordered in a letter dated Nov. 30, 1838, subsequent to the date of ~~the~~ Mr. Marshall's receipt found among your brother's papers, and is the one for which Mr. Marshall now claims payment. ¶ From ~~your le~~ the letters above referred to, which I have seen, I feel satisfied that neither of the two small lathes was intended for your Mint, but that they were ordered by your brother for some other establishments.

this you can readily determine; and I will thank you to inform me how it is, and to state for the information of Mr. Marshall, what was done with the lathe last sent, & to whom he must look for payment.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., and will reply to inquiries in a few days.

R. M. P.

To Philos B. Tyler, Esq.
Coiner Br. Mint.
New Orleans.

To/ Philos B. Tyler, Esq.
Coiner Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Feb. 19. 1840.

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 20. 1840.

Sir,

I send you, herewith, a copy of my letter to Mr. Bradford, of May 25, 1838, referred to in my letter to you of Nov. 9. 1839 as containing full instructions for the course of Mint business, ~~and referred to in my letter to you of Nov. 9th, 1839.~~ ~~I send also some of the forms upon to which it refers~~

I have not deemed it necessary to send to you the forms of Journal & Ledger entries, and the Abstracts, to which it refers; ~~or those originally sent~~ but should this be desired by your Treasurer, they will be prepared & forwarded.

R. M. P.
Dr

(Lo)
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Feb. 20. 1840.

To Sec. of Treasury

Feb. 20. 1840.

Mint U. S.
Feb. 20. '40.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending, herewith, a package containing instructions & forms for the Supt. of the Br. Mint at New Orleans, to whom it is addressed, — to be forwarded under your frank.

R. M. P.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treas.

(To) Sec. of Treasury.

Feb. 20. 1840.

Treasury Department
February 21. 1840.

Sir,

Some dissatisfaction has been expressed at the small amount of Coinage at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans since the newly appointed Officers entered upon their duties.

I will thank you to make the necessary enquiries and to report to this Department whether, in your opinion, a reasonable amount has been coined at that Branch since the appoint:ment of the new officers, and if not what has been the cause of the deficiency. Perhaps since the arrival of Doct. R. all the previous delay has been remedied. Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Philada.

From/

Sec. of Treasury.
Feb. 21. 1840.
Rec'd " 24. "

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans February 21. 1840

Sir,

The following dies, dated, 1839 have been defaced in my presence by the Coiner, "by heating them and cutting a cross on their face"

Half dollars	3 pair	and one tail die	7
Dimes	4 "	" " 1 " "	9
Half dimes	4 "	" " 2 " "	10
Quarter eagles	1		2
			28.

Reserved
1 half dollar, tail
1 dime —— tail 1 hv. & 1 h
1 pr. quarter eagles 2 h. ½ dimes

These last will not be used without your approbation.

I would respectfully request you to keep us well supplied with dies of all the denominations. This is the more necessary now, as we have not yet had sufficient experience to have arrived at any great accuracy in hardening.

I am desired by our Melter and Refiner to ask you whether the pickling and annealing by the Coiner previous to weighing, must be adopted as an instruction, and if so, whether the clippings should not likewise be pickled and cleaned.

Let me beg you to lose no time in sending out the 50 carboys nitric acid ordered a few days since.

respectfully your obed.t Serv.t

J M Kennedy
Sup.t

R. M. Patterson Esq.r
Director Mint of the U. S.
Phil.a

NEW ORLEANS La.
FEB 23

R. M. Patterson Esqre
Director of the Mint of the
U. S.
Philadelphia

From
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Feb. 21. } 1840.
Rec'd March 4.

Feb 5
[illegible] 4 Eagle

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 22'd, 18~~4~~0

Sir,

I have received from our Treasurer, the sum of $61.10, which I have placed to your credit in my account under date of Feb. 12th, as follows:

"By 3.55 oz. Stand.d Silver, and ~~227/1000~~ 0.227 oz. Stand.d gold, — being the weight of assay slips, sent to this Mint, for assay, in the year 1839, from New Orleans Br. Mint. Value | $8.35

"By 25.99 oz. Stand.d Silver, and 1.209 oz. Stand.d gold, — being the coins reserved at N. O. Br. Mint in 1839, and sent to this mint for the annual assay. Value — — | 52.75

Total — $61.10

In the last item is included the coins sent from your Mint on the ~~8~~9th Dec.'39 & 21st ult., and also 7 half dimes, from a delivery of Jan. 16th, 1839, received ~~Feb. 1st, 1839,~~ with the assay coins of 1838, on the 1st Feb. 1839.

~~In~~ In your letter to me of ~~Dec.~~ 21st ult., you state that two drafts, amounting to $525.— drawn by Mr. Bradford, (and paid here) are not credited in the books of your office. I conclude, from an examination of my duplicate vouchers, that these are the drafts, both dated Aug. 5, 1839, ~~and~~ ~~[illegible]~~ which constitute vouchers 48 & 49 in my account rendered Nov. 4th, 1839, ~~& [illegible]~~ ~~not that I can give any~~ ~~They~~ and which speak for themselves, so far as ~~my~~ that account is concerned. ~~As the money in my hands from a part of your Ordinary funds~~ The money in my hands is a part of your Ordinary fund:

If your Predecessor allowed these drafts upon it, he ought to be able to show why.

R. M. P.

To/

H. C. Cammack, Esq.,
Treasurer Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasr. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Feb. 22. 1840.

U. S. Branch Mint New Orleans
Feb 23d 1840

Sir,

Yours of the 12th instant I have this moment recd. I regret exceedingly the delay which occurred in transmitting to you the information asked for in your letter of the 17th December last, and the only apology I can offer is, that _that_ section of the law fixing the period for your annual report had entirely escaped my recollection. In your letter above refer'd to, you ask (together with the statement of our operations) for any other information or suggestions which I may deem important for your "annual report to the President". Without intending in _the slightest degree_, to make you a participant in _my_ fault, it is unfortunate for me, that in that letter no mention was made of the time limited for the presentation of that report. In my forgetfulness of the law itself, any intimation whatever from you, calculated to recall it to my mind, would have prevented an omission, the thought of which gives me much pain, and of which, I promise that there shall be no recurrence — I hope you will also take into consideration that we

have all been *but a short time* in office; are yet inexperienced, and without any thing like *regular instructions*, those of the 25 May 1838 of which you promised us a copy, not having yet been received. With regard to the monthly reports of the operations of our Mint, you call my attention to your instructions of the 14th Feb and 13th Oct 1838. I have seen none such, and am now ignorant, not only of the time *within* which these reports must be made out by the Treasurer to be transmitted to you, but also that the sending them at all is a *matter of instruction*. Many of the documents belonging to this Institution were either mislaid during the late investigation, or appended, I presume to the record of the proceedings, and this fact has not been noticed before, because we presume that the instructions of the 25th May 1838 which we have been expecting for some time will contain all the information we shall require —
I will hereafter order, that on the 1st day of every month, a statement be made out of the operations of the month preceding to be transmitted to you without delay.

The following is an extract from a report received from the Treasurer —

" I have the pleasure of transmitting you the following Statement of the operations of the Mint for the Month of January 1840.

The deposites of Silver Bullion amount to 3940.65 oz gross weight - Standard 3901.56 oz - Value $ 4539.71.

The deposites of Gold Bullion amount to 17.43 oz. gross weight, Standard 12.253 oz. Value $ 227.96.

I have delivered to the Melter & Refiner in Silver Bullion Standard Weight 89.046.55 oz and have rec^d from him in Ingots 37.105.45 oz and have also delivered him in Gold Clippings and Bullion 4.857.436 oz.

To the Coiner I have delivered in Silver Ingots &c 65.813.06 ounces, and received from him in clippings 15.416.40 oz, and in Coins 16.757.80 oz - I also delivered him one ounce in gold Bullion -

The coins received were as follows

~~1,300~~ 13,000 130.000 dimes
5,500 110.000 1/2 dimes
1,000 2.000 1/2 dollars
19,500

I have paid Certificates and Warrants of Silver deposits amounting to $ 16.260.34 and of gold $ 23.517.27.

With regard to the delay which is the subject of the first part of this letter, let me beg you to place it before the Secretary of the Treasury in a light as little unfavorable as possible! -

5,500
20
110,000
55,000

very respectfully
y^r. ob^t. Servt.
J M Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqre
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Philadelphia

(From)
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt Br Mint,
N. Orleans.

Feb. 23d, 1840
Rec'd March 6.

Mint U.S.
Feb. 24/40.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst., in which you state that some dissatisfaction has been expressed at the small amount of coinage at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, since the newly appointed officers entered upon their duties, and ask whether, in my opinion, this complaint has a reasonable foundation.

In reply I have to mention, first, that the Coiner, Mr. Tyler, ~~did~~ entered upon his office on the 17th of November, and ~~found much~~ immediately ~~commenced~~ gave his attention to the ~~machinery and~~ selection of workmen, and the repairs and arrangement of the machinery of his department, but could not lawfully commence coining until the Melter and Refiner, Dr. Riddell, should enter upon the discharge of his duties. Now, in consequence of the absence of this gentleman, on a botanical and geological tour in the wilds of Texas, he did not even hear of his appointment until the beginning of December, and did not give his official bonds until the 9th of that month. Under these circumstances, the coinage, up to the end of the year, of 75,396 pieces of coin, amounting to $33,490, ought not, I think, to give rise to any dissatisfaction.

I am not informed of the amount of coinage at New Orleans since the commencement of the year, but my last letters from that Mint are written in a tone of confidence, and give me the assurance, on which I count much for the success of the establishment, that "harmony and good feeling prevail among the officers."

R. M. P.

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treas.

(To) Sec. of Treasury.

Feb. 24. 1840.

A

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Feb 25. 1840

Sir,

We perceive that the instructions of Feb: 14 and Oct: 13 1840, with regard to the monthly operations of this Mint, refer'd to in your letter of the 12th inst., and which in my last communication to you, I observed that I had not seen, are contained in two letters of those dates from you to Mr. Bradford. There is one document however mentioned in that of the 13th Oct. which we have not been able to find, and that is, the statement containing "the items omitted in former reports, and also to serve as a form, &c, embracing all desirable subjects of inquiry in regard to Deposites and Coinage". If you will be so kind as to send us another copy of that statement, its requisitions shall be strictly complied with.

I yesterday saw a letter from Mr. Nicholas, one of our Senators, in which he says that it appears to be the wish of those feeling an interest in the affairs of our Mint, that the Superintendent should reside on the premises - He also mentions the fact, of your report to the President being incomplete, for the want of our statements.

With regard to the residence, I have in a communication to him, quoted two passages of your letter to me of the 3.d December 1839, which, together with one on the same subject from Mr. Cammack containing a corroborating post-script from Mr. Slidell will, I think, satisfy him of the propriety of preferring the Treasurer, as a resident officer, to the Superintendent -

In relation to the cause of the incomplete state of your report, I have spoken to him with the same frankness that I did to you adding, that as this was the first oversight, and, as I conceived that I had not at that period been a sufficient length of time in my present office, to be fairly presumed to have a thorough acquaintance with all its details I hoped the omission would be overlooked. Let me again request your good offices with the Secretary of the Treasury.

Respectfully

Your obed.t Servant

Jos. M. Kennedy

Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq.re

Director of the Mint of ~~the~~ U. S.

Phil.a

From / Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Feb. 25. 1840.
Rec'd March 7.

R. M. Patterson Esquire
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Philadelphia

NEW ORLEANS LA.
FEB
26

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans March 2nd 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a Statement of our operations for the last month - In a communication to me from Mr. Cammack, he says -

"During the past month there were 70 deposites of silver -
"The debt of the Mint now amounts,
"for silver deposites to —— $85.174.75
" Gold deposites —— 22.129.67
107.304.42

"I have in hand
"Silver Coins —— $34.589.90
"Gold Coins —— " 15.703.28 50.293.18

Bal.ce due - $57.011.24

"We are not as near out of debt as I had anticipated,
"but the recent deposites have been larger than I expected".

I have been requested by the Melter & Refiner to say to you that the following articles are wanted in his department.

50 Black led Pots - size No. - 60
50 - do - do - do - do - No. - 80
20 - do - do Lids Diameter - 10 Inches
20 - do - do - do - do - 8 Do
20 - do - do - do - do - 7 - Do

Dr. Hort likewise stands in need of an "apparatus for agitating in the Humid Assay such as is used in Phila. (to work without steam) and to save the expense of springs."

Will you be good enough to inform me whether you do not think it would be advisable to put a stop to the extra pay which figures every month upon the roll, and to require that in future all the work necessary in the different departments should be done within the regular hours -

Very respectfully
Your obedt. Servant.
J M Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqr.
Director &c
Pha.

(From) Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

March 2.
Rec'd " 13. 1840.

(With Report for February)

March 3d. 1840

Branch Mint U.S. New Orleans

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 10th ult. came to hand yesterday. I thought the information given to Mr Kenedy, in regard to Mr Marshalls lathes, was sufficient. or I should have written before this. — Three lathes were ordered for this mint. and paid for — the fourth was ordered on the 30th Nov 1838. in words following —

"I have been requested to procure the lathe you made for the F. I. Exibition, and to have it forwarded to me immediately. I have therefore to request that you ship it to me at once. and I will remit a draft at sight for the amount. less twenty five dollars. for which I will send you a receipt. as agreed. between us, when I was in Philada."

This lathe was sold by my late Brother for which he received the money. to my positive knowledge. I was also aware that the lathe had not been paid for. by my late Brother. I was acquainted with the arrangement made between him and Mr Marshall about the twenty five dollars to be given for the sale of each lathe. &c after My brothers death I was awaiting an opportunity of writing Mr Marshall something decisive in regard to the estate. when he sent me a bill for the lathe, made out against the Mint. I was so much astonished at his apparent misunderstanding. that I neglected writing him. until you wrote Mr Kenedy on the subject. when I gave him the same information as given above

Please inform Mr Marshall that the Estate of Rufus Tyler, Decd. is alone accountable to him for the Lathe - but not ~~at~~ at the rate charged in his bill. as is shown by the order for the same. Also that I am the legal Executor of the Estate and can give him any information he requires in regard to his claim. I am sorry you have been put to so much trouble in this matter, and hope the above will give you a correct idea "how it is"

Your nephew Mr Kane called on us some three weeks since, and after a trip to Havana he is with us again.

Our Mint is going on more prosperously than at any previous time. I am happy to state that I have been enabled to coin all the Bullion I could get. and at the same time to turn my attention to the repairs of the machinery - &c. I have but one trouble. which is on account of the dies. as I could not use any you sent us except the Half dollars & Half dimes. The Quarter dollar press not being completed. and the dimes not wanted. I have however coined a few H. Eagles — in the dime press. by turning it over by hand. with the Half dollar dies I have coined about $90.000 pieces. and have now but one pair left which I fear will not stand to coin as many more. With the Half dimes. I have coined about 100.000 pieces. but on account of one of the tail dies being cracked in hardening. I expect soon to go ashore on that tack — the fault is not alone in the hardening. I have been working bad silver. besides, my annealer is inexperienced. Other circumstances. such as too ~~thick~~ much. or too little milling. have tended to wear out the dies. all of which difficulties require patience, with skillfull practice to overcome. Our ~~out~~ debt in half dimes. is, at present ~~is~~ 160.000 pieces and is increasing daily. So that I beg you will send us a sufficient number of Half dime dies. to enable us, if possible to give them enough of them

I understand also that some large deposits in Mexican coins are ready for us, as soon as we pay off our present debt, which of course they will expect immediately, as there will be no delay in separating — a large amount of gold is soon expected from the separating room which I would advise being coined into Quarter Eagles for which we have no dies — Pardon me, if I have urged this matter improperly — as nothing but my anxiety to satisfy the public, and to avoid unjust censure has induced me to write to you, ~~before~~ thus particularly

We have been favored with your report to Congress through the Hon. Thos. H. Benton to Dr. Hort. Our news from Washington appears dubious, and should anything occur to our disadvantage. I beg you will not forget us.

Very Respectfully Your Humble Servant
Philo B. Tyler
Coiner U.S. Br. Mint N.O.

To Dr R. M. Patterson
Director U.S. Mint

To
Dr R. M. Patterson,
Director U.S. Mint
Philadelphia

NEW ORLEANS MAR

(From)
Philos B. Tyler, Esq.
Coiner Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
March 3d.
Recd " 13. 1840.

Mint U. S.
March 4/48.

Sir,

I find that there is on my file a letter from you of the 6th ult. which I have neglected to answer.

I have given instructions to have you furnished with a full supply of dies. It is impossible to answer, with any precision, what is the number of coins that may be struck with one pair of dies. # Perhaps 200,000 may be given as a fair medium. We have struck 400,000 half dimes.

In answer to your inquiries respecting ~~regulations for~~ the workmen, I send, directed to Mr. Kennedy, a copy of our printed regulations.

~~Mr Peale says that~~ Any metallic diagonal scale, such as is found in cases of mathematical instruments, will be sufficiently accurate for fixing the diameter of your dies.

R. M. P.
D. M.

To/
Philos B. Tyler, Esq.
Coiner Br. Mint, New Orleans.

(To/

Philos B. Tyler, Esq.
Coiner Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

March 4. 1840.

Mint U.S.
March 4/48.

Dear Sir,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 10th ult. I envy you your wanderings in the wilds of Texas, in search of plants and minerals. In my younger days, I was very fond of such excursions, and have walked on them hundreds of miles. I should be very glad to have the result of your researches for our Philosophical Transactions, and shall be glad to take charge of the matter for you. You are aware that all papers have to be referred to a Committee, and that the action of the Society is upon their report. I have no doubt, however, that your communication would be gladly received for our Volume. The expense of such plates as may be required can hardly equal that for Mr. Lea's Shells; and I do not apprehend any serious difficulty on this score; but I will make inquiry on the subject, at our meeting of next Friday, and if objections are made to the expense, I will let you know.

I have written, by the present mail, to Mr. Kennedy, on the subject of the distribution of the workmen between the Coiner & Melter, and the regulations to be observed in future in the *delivery* of ingots and clippings. I have also sent to him a copy of our printed regulations for the workmen, which will answer certain inquiries made by Mr. Tyler & yourself. I must refer you also to my correspondence with the Superintendent, for my views as to receiving foreign coins without assay.

R. M. P.

Ad/
Dr. J. L. Riddell,
Melter & Refiner Br. Mint
New Orleans.

To/ Dr. J. L. Riddell,
Melter & Refiner Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

March 4. 1840.

Mint U. S.
March 4 / 40.

Sir,

In your letter of the 8th ult., you submit to my approval the charge made by Mr. Slidell for the services rendered by him at the investigation held in your Mint. I have now to state, that, after giving this charge ~~my~~ full consideration, and taking into view the labor, time, and anxiety which the investigation cost, and the tariff ~~of~~ for professional services understood to be established in New Orleans, I cannot pronounce Mr. Slidell's charge of one thousand dollars ~~extravagant~~ unreasonable, and that I think you would be justified in paying it, when you shall be in funds ~~for this purpose~~ to enable you to do so.

It is the judgment of our officers that of the ~~nineteen~~ twenty workmen allotted to your Mint, one should be for the Assayer, five for the Melter & Refiner, and fourteen for the Coiner. But, in any case where such a course may be deemed ~~practicable and~~ desirable, the men of one department may be called upon to work for another. This is often done at our mint.

Your letter of the 21st ult. has been received this morning, with your statement of the old dies destroyed, and of those received, in due form. — I have given instructions to our Engraver to keep you furnished with a full supply of dies.

Since the inquiries which have been made by yourself and Dr. Riddell with regard to the ~~allowan~~ ingots and clippings which pass between the Melter and Coiner, we have been making a number of experiments, to determine the most just rules to be observed in these transfers, and I am led by them to withdraw my former instructions, in this matter, ~~with respect to them~~ and to give the following in their place, which I beg you to have observed for the future.

Gold ingots and gold clippings are always to be cleansed and pickled before delivering, and both ingots and clippings are ~~see also they are then~~ to be delivered at their true weight, without any deduction.

Silver ingots are to topped, (if necessary,) filed, and rubbed clean of dirt, and silver clippings are to be ~~brushed~~

~~kept burnt off~~
Cleaned of grease by burning off in the annealing furnace ~~heating to redness~~, and both ingots and clippings are to be delivered at their true weight, without any deduction.

I need not tell you that this change in the regulations has no effect upon the total account of wastage, but only changes the relative wastage account of the Melter & Coiner, and it does so to the advantage of the former, inasmuch as the ~~delivery~~ weight of ingots delivered is more than double ~~of~~ that of the clippings returned. We are convinced that the deductions heretofore allowed have done injustice to the account of the Melter, and have diminished factitiously the apparent wastage of the Coiner. A very singular proof of this was presented by the circumstance that on ~~settling~~ settling ~~the~~ our Coiner's silver account, for the past year, he was found to have not only no wastage, but an excess of silver to hand over.

~~As the legal allowance for wastage is nothing more than a.~~

As the Coiner & Melter have really no allowance for wastage, but only a limit established by law ~~within~~

within which their wastage must be confined; and as this limit is so ample that it is impossible it should be reached except in the event of robbery or of gross carelessness, the arrangement now made does not affect the personal interests of either of the officers, but will only serve to divide the total charge of wastage more equally and more justly between them.

Inquiry is made by your Treasurer and Melter as to propriety of melting Mexican dollars and French five-frank pieces into ingots without previous assay. I answer, first, that this is a question which immediately concerns the Assayer, whose duty it is to determine the value of the deposits, and who must be satisfied of the grounds of his calculations. But I will state, for the information of all concerned, the practice at this Mint.

French five frank pieces are received ~~at their~~ as of the true standard 900, and melted without assay until they are in ingots. We have found no inconvenience in this course.

When small quantities of Mexican dollars are brought to us, say less

U. S. Branch Mint New Orleans
March 8. 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt (thro' the Secretary of the Treasy.) of a package containing a copy of your letter of instructions to Mr. Bradford dated 25th May 1838 –

Let me renew the expression of my strong desire that you should keep us abundantly supplied with dies of all the denominations, (including Eagles) The necessity thereof for the present, arises from a want of experience on the part of our Coiner in the operation of hardening, to be expected in one so new in the discharge of his duties –

Our acids have not yet arrived –

Very respectfully
Your obedt. Servant
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director &c

From/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

March 8.
Rec'd " 19. 1840.

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of January, 1840.

Deposites.

Kind of Deposites.	Gross Weight after melting.		Standard Weight.		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total value before deductions	
	Ounces.	dec.	Ounces.	dec.	Dollars,	Cts.	Dollars,	Cts.	Dollars,	Cts.
Gold:										
U.S. Bullion, – say	303	00	318	848	5,932	03	5,932	03		
Foreign Bullion "	299	35	189	146	3,518	99	3,512	48		
Foreign Coins "	216	55	214	320	3,987	34	3,986	89		
U.S. Coins (old Standard) "	44	38	45	070	838	51	838	51		
									14,276	87
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion, say	2,467	68	2,645	36	3,077	81	3,070	27		
Foreign Coins, "	10,947	31	10,887	03	12,668	54	12,668	54		
									15,746	35
					Total deposites –				30,023	77

Coinage.

Denomination.	Number of Pieces.	Value.		Total Value.	
		Dollars,	Cts.	Dollars,	Cts.
Gold:					
~~Eagles~~					
Half-eagles, say	1,420	7,100	00		
Quarter-eagles "	9,396	23,490	00		
				30,590	00
Silver:					
Half-dollars, say	100,000	50,000	00		
Quarter-dollars, "	48,000	12,000	00		
Dimes "	50,000	5,000	00		
Half-dimes "	40,000	2,000	00		
				69,000	00
	Total Coinage –			99,590	00

Sent to New Orleans Br. Mint, March 10. 1840, as a form for monthly reports.

Mint of the United States,
March 10. 1840

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 23d & 25th ult. As you request, I send you herewith a form for your monthly report. It is somewhat different from the one referred to in mine of Oct. 13th, but embraces, I believe, all that is necessary. I should be glad to receive from you such reports for January and February, and for the present month also, as soon as practicable after its close. From these monthly reports, I make quarterly reports to the Secretary of the Treasury, of the operations of the Branch Mints.

I beg that the circumstance of your delay in sending your report in January may not give you any further trouble. The matter has been explained to the Department.

R. M. P.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
&c &c

(To)

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq

Supt. Br. Mint,

New Orleans.

March 10. 1840.

Statement of the operations of the United States Branch Mint, New Orleans, for the month of February 1840

The deposites of Silver Bullion amount to 30.933.$\frac{85}{100}$ oz. gros Weight, Standard 30.556.$\frac{89}{100}$ oz. Value \$35.556.87. without including eight deposites which were not received in time to be assayed this month, but will be accounted for in a day or two.

The deposites of Gold Bullion amount to 207.$\frac{590}{1000}$ oz. gross Weight, Standard 186.$\frac{471}{1000}$ oz. Value \$3469.20 without including one deposite not received in time to be aſsayed this month, but will be accounted for as above.

The amount of Silver Bullion delivered to the Melter & Refiner, 32.060.$\frac{72}{100}$ oz. gross Weight, Stand.^{d} 31.676.$\frac{59}{100}$ oz. and in Silver Clippings 28.553.$\frac{20}{100}$ oz. Stand. Weight.

The amount of Silver Bullion received from the Melter & Refiner, in Ingots 67.762.$\frac{70}{100}$ oz. Stand. Weight.

Amount of Gold Bullion delivered to the Melter & Refiner, 207.$\frac{590}{1000}$ oz. gross, Stand. 186.$\frac{471}{1000}$ oz. and in Gold Clippings 899.$\frac{850}{1000}$. Stand. Weight.

Amount of Gold Bullion received from the Melter & Refiner, in Ingots 3.457.$\frac{510}{1000}$ oz. Stand. Weight.

Amount of Silver Bullion delivered to the Coiner in Ingots 101.401.$\frac{56}{100}$ oz. Stand. Weight; and received from him in Silver Clippings 28.553.$\frac{20}{100}$ oz. Stand. Weight.

Amount of Gold Bullion delivered to the Coiner in Ingots, 3457.$\frac{510}{1000}$ oz. Stand. Weight; and received from him in Gold Clippings 899.$\frac{850}{1000}$ oz. Stand. Weight.

The Coins received were as follows: 72000. half Dollars, and 66000 half Dimes weighing Stand. 33.773.$\frac{43}{100}$ oz

Value - - - - - - - - - - - - $ 39.300.00

And 3000. half Eagles, 806.$\frac{850}{1000}$ oz. St. Wt. Value 15.000.00

$ 54.300.00

The eight Silver deposits which have to be accounted for in a Subsequent letter, amount to 1739.$\frac{70}{100}$ oz. gross Weight. – and the deposits of Gold Bullion, not melted, 18.$\frac{620}{1000}$ oz. gross Weight.

New Orleans March 1. 1840

Signed. H. C. Cammack

Treas.r

Mint U. S.

March 17. '40

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, a box of dies directed on the inner envelope to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to be forwarded under your frank.

R. M. P.

(To)

Sec. of Treas.

(Ls) Sec. of Treasury.

March 17. 1840.

Mint of the United States,
March 17, 1840.

Sir,

I send, by the present mail, to the Secretary of the Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his frank, a box containing

1 pair of dime, [illegible],
1 " " half-dime, &
1 " " quarter-eagle dies.

I shall send in the same way, by to-morrows mail, 1 pair half-dollar dies, and on the day after 1 pair quarter-dollar dies.

R. M. P.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New-Orleans.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
March 17. 1860.

Mint U. S.

March 18. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you by the present mail, a second box of dies directed on the inner envelope to the Supt. of the N. O. Br. Mint, to be forwarded, as heretofore, under your frank. A third box will be sent by to morrows mail.

R. M. P.

Dr

(To)

Sec. of Treas.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

March 18. 1840.

Treasury Department
March 18. 1840.

Sir

I duly received your communication of the 24th.. ulto. in relation to the alleged deficiency in the Coinage at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans and hope that your expectations as to the future succeſs of that establishment may not be disappointed.

Permit me to ask, however, whether sufficient time has elapsed to enable you to judge of the qualifications and general fitneſs of the Coiner of that branch for the situation he holds? If not, I will thank you to institute such enquiries as you may deem proper & neceſsary to enable you to form an opinion on that point and to report the result to the Department.

Is he active? energetic?

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt. St.

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada.

From
Sec. of Treasury.
March 18.
Rec'd " 21. 1840.

Treasury Department
March 20. 1840.

Sir,

The box of dies referred to in yours of the 18th. has been received and forwarded to the Branch Mint at New Orleans.

I transmit by this mail to your address a Letter from the U.S. Consulate at Hope Cape and the coins therein referred to.

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R M. Patterson
Philada.

From
Sec. of Treasury.
March 20.
Rec'd " 23. 1840.

Mint U.S.
March 21, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th, on the subject of the dies for the New Orleans Mint. ~~I take the liberty,~~ I beg to state that ~~there are not~~ the first dies for 1840 were sent to that Mint ~~early~~ in January, and received there in that month, and that it has been a custom, from the origin of the Mint, to use the dies of the preceding year, until the new ones are prepared. There is, however, no difficulty in ~~keep~~ sending on the supply in time to prevent this necessity, and I will have it attended to in future.

R. M. P.
D. M.

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

March 21. 1840.

Treasury Department
March 21. 1840.

Sir,

The third box of dies for the Branch Mint at New Orleans was received this morning and has been forwarded

Very Respy.

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada.

From/
Sec. of Treasury.

March 21.
Rec'd " 24. 1840.

Mint of the United States,
March 21. 1840.

Sir,

I send you herewith bills of lading for articles shipped on the 14th & 20th inst., for the use of your Mint. You will notice that there was some dispute ~~respecting~~ as to the number of carboys of acid shipped: please inform me how many ~~you~~ ~~xx~~ come to hand. A further supply will be sent soon.

The balance is for the use of your Coiner. ~~in the adjust~~ The weights accompanying have all been adjusted here.

Very resp'y,
yours
R. M. P., Director
per Geo. F. Dunning,
Director's Clerk.

(To)
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint.
New Orleans.

March 21. 1840.

Mint U.S.
March 21 / 40.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th inst. on the subject of the operations in the New Orleans Branch Mint, and particularly respecting the qualifications of the Coiner. My last letter from this officer is of the 3d inst. In it he makes the following remarks.

"Our Mint is going on more prosperously than at any previous time. I am happy to state that I have been enabled to coin all the bullion [meaning ingots of course] I could get, and at the same time to turn my attention to the repairs of the machinery &c. I have but one trouble, which is on account of the dies, as I could not use any you sent us except the half-dollars and half-dimes, — the quarter-dollar press not being completed, and the dimes not wanted. I have however coined a few half-eagles in the dime-press: [the quarter-dollar press ~~is~~ being the proper one for these coins.] With the half dollar dies I have coined about 90,000 pieces, and have but one pair more which I fear will not stand to coin as many more. With the half-dimes, I have coined about 100,000 pieces, but on account of one of the tail dies being cracked in hardening, I expect soon to go ashore on that tack. The fault is not alone in the hardening, for I have been working bad silver, and, besides, my annealer is inexperienced. Other circumstances, such as too much or too little milling, have tended to wear out the dies,— all of which difficulties require patience with skilful practice to overcome: &c."

Mr Tyler here details some of the difficulties to which his operations are exposed, and for which the ignorant or the ill-disposed will not make allowance, and yet he says that "he has been enabled to coin all the ingots he could get." It is true that the New Orleans Mint has done but little this year, yet you will see, from the report which I send you by the present mail, that the coinage has been almost double of the deposits in ~~the~~ January & February.

My opinion, then, is, that if there has not yet been time to enable me to give an absolutely favorable judgment as to Mr. Tyler's qualifications, ~~there certainly~~ I cannot yet see any thing in his course that should lead to a contrary conclusion.

I had a ~~A~~ visit ~~made to me~~ yesterday, from ~~by~~ a gentleman who has been lately at the

New Orleans Mint, and I was distressed to hear from him that symptoms of personal hostility were again making their appearance among the officers, or, at least, between two of them, Dr. Hort and Mr. Tyler. Dr. Hort is the only remaining officer of the old set, and he was always represented to me, by one party, as the instigator of the dissentions which destroyed the character & efficiency of the Mint in its early days. I was warned of the danger of recommending that he should be retained. Yet I did so, because he is a man of ability in his department, and because I hoped, that if he was really disposed to mischief-making and the indulgence of personal enmities, the lesson

I sincerely hope that your letter does not indicate the existence, on the part of any officer of the New Orleans Mint, of the disposition to denounce and injure other officers, which had so baneful an influence in the former corps. Almost the same accusations now hinted at against Mr. Philos Tyler were made against his brother, and yet his official character was fully sustained by Mr. Slidell, upon the evidence presented to him in the investigation.

I will write to Mr. Kennedy and make inquiry as to his impressions with the regard to Mr. Lyle's discharge of his functions. Happily Mr. Kennedy ~~had~~ has had no connexion with the old feuds.

R. M. P.
D. M.

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

(To) Sec. of Treasury.
March 21. 1840.

~~Amount~~ of Coinage

Mint of the United States,
March 24, 1860.

Sir,

By a letter received from the Secretary of the Treasury, I am sorry to learn that attempts have been made, I presume indirectly, to convey to his mind impressions unfavourable to the official character of Mr. Tyler. Under such circumstances it becomes my duty to apply to you for information, and for your frank opinion.

I will ask you, then, whether you have or have not found Mr. Tyler attentive to his business in the Mint: whether he has shown a proper anxiety to get forward with his work, and whether he has succeeded in doing so, to your satisfaction. I wish you particularly to state whether ingots have been allowed to accumulate unreasonably in his hands or in the hands of the Treasurer: whether, from time to time, he has ~~pr~~ coined all the ingots prepared for him; in a word, whether the Coiner has been able to keep pace with the Melter. Has it ever happened that the coining has been stopped for want of ingots?

If the Coinage is much behind the supply of ingots, how far is this to be ascribed to the demand for half-dimes? If this demand stands in the way of your paying off depositors, can it not be resisted or at least reduced to a reasonable extent? I am told that half dimes are asked of you because they can be passed at 25 per cent. above their legitimate value, in New-Orleans. On the supposition, then, that this coinage tends to keep the Mint behind-hand & in debt, might it not be right to inquire whether such a result should be submitted to, for the encouragement of what is at least a paltry traffic, if not an absolute fraud?

If you think that the insinuations against Mr. Tyler are unfounded, I would suggest to you the propriety of considering the subject of this communication confidential, - as, otherwise, you must expect to see suspicion and ill-blood excited among your officers, and the deplorable scenes revived which but a few months ago had nearly destroyed your institution. I most earnestly hope that the spirit of intrigue is not again busy among you. One more investigation like the last, and your institution will have reached its end.

(Signed) R. M. Patterson
Director.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

March 24. 1840.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans March 26. 1840

Sir,

I have the honor of enclosing herewith, Statements of our operations for the months of January and February, made out according to the form prescribed by your letter of the 10th inst; and will transmit that of the present month, as soon after its close as possible -

Very resp^y
Yr obd^t Servt
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq -
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Phil^a

(From
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans
March 28/40.

Rec'd April 7th, 1840.

(Reports for January & February.)

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of January 1840.

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces	dec	Ounces	dec	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	Cts
Gold:										
U. S. Bullion. Say	7	53	8	073	150	20	150	20		
Foreign Bullion "	9	90	4	180	77	76	77	76		
									227	96
Silver:										
Foreign Coins. Say	5067	55	5021	25	5842	60	5842	60		
									5.842	60
Total deposites									6.070	56

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:					
Silver:					
Half Dollars, Say	2.000	1.000	00		
Dimes "	130.000	13.000	00		
Half Dimes "	110.000	5.500	00		
				19.500	00
Total Coinage				19.500	00

Treasurer's Office
25 March 1840
H. C. Cammack
Treasurer

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of February 1840.

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces	dec	Ounces	dec	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:										
U. S. Bullion, say	11	43	7	112	132	31	132	31		
Foreign Bullion "	41	73	22	898	426	00	426	00		
Foreign Coins "	170	04	171	906	3198	23	3198	23		
									3.756	54
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion, say	3040	40	3222	29	3749	55	3741	35		
Foreign Coins "	29633	15	29053	97	33.808	01	33785	65		
									37.557	56
Total deposites									41.314	10

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:					
Half Eagles, say	3.000	15.000	00		
				15.000	00
Silver:					
Half Dollars, say	72.000	36.000	00		
Half Dimes "	66.000	3.300	00		
				39.300	00
Total Coinage				54.300	00

Treasurer's Office
March 25 1840
H. C. Cammack
Treasurer

Treasurer's Office U S B Mint
New Orleans 30 March 40

Dr R. M. Patterson
Director
Philadelphia

Sir

I received in due Course your esteemed letter of 22nd February. and I have entered to the debit of your account $61.10 as advised by you.

I have also entered to your Credit $525 00/100 amount of two drafts drawn by Mr Bradford on you, in August of last year, and have debited Mr Forstall, late Treasurer of this mint, with the same. I had no doubt of the propriety charging this amount to my predecessor - but I considered it necessary for me to have the order of yourself or Mr Kennedy to do so, in order to place the Sum fairly at issue between Mr Forstall and the Government without responsibility on my part. Mr Kennedy has given me his written instructions.

Mr Kennedy wrote to you some time ago that there had been some enquiry at Washington about the residence at the mint. I have received a letter from Mr Nicholas, our Senator, and I am pleased to learn that every thing has been explained satisfactorily, which is gratifying.

Our mint is in full operation and the Coinage of this month will be the largest

ever

ever made here. Tomorrow evening the Statement for the month will be made out and handed to Mr Kennedy, who will forward it to you.

All of our gold Certificates are paid, and we have ab 22.500 $ in gold coins on hand.

The Silver Certificates are all paid up to the 13.th of last Month, on which day a large deposite was made by one of our banks; with this exceptn, and abt $1500 in small deposites, we have paid all the depositors up to the 17.th instant.

The deposites made subsequent to the 13th February have been paid by Consent of the Bank, who does not want the money until it is perfectly agreeable for us to pay. and by doing this we have accommodated a great number of small depositors.

I am glad to find by a recent letter to Mr Kennedy that we will have a new sett of weights.

The weights of the Treasurer of the Mint, I think, should remain always in his Custody - and kept as a standard to regulate the ~~other~~ weights in the other departments. With but one sett of weights, used by any and every body, carried from Office to Office, and no means of adjusting them they may get wrong and remain so and I can never know it.

I hope when the new weights come that I may be allowed to take them in my possession to keep them for my own use only.

I am, with great respect,

Yours faithfully & Sincerely

H C Cammack

Treasurer

From/ H. C. Cammack, Esq.,
Treasr. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
March 30.
Recd April 10. 1840.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

MARCH 31 / 1840

Statement of the amount of money drawn out under the appropriations, of 3d March 1835 & 3d March 1837, for the establishment of a Branch Mint at New Orleans shewing by whom received and the amount expended:

Amount recd. by Martin Gordon, senr. Commissioner appointed to have the General Superintendence of the Work connected with the erection of completing of the Building, viz:

Warrant No. 876. dated May 25th 1835. . . .	$ 1000.00
" — 1849 " Octr. 7 "	71,000.00
" — 4382 " Decr. 27th 1836.	71,000.00
" — 5691. " June 29th 1837.	40,000.00
	183,000.00
His expenditures including his salary & Commissions up to the time of the rendition of his last account, after deducting $ 9- for postage which was suspended for want of Voucher amounted to	186,275.13
leaving this balance due Commissioner which was closed by warrant in his favor No. 4272 dated May 5th 1840.	3,275.13

The amount of the appropriations for said Branch Per Act of 3d March 1835 was . . .	200,000.00
Per Act of 3d March 1837 "	96,500.00
	296,500.00
The Amt. of Mr. Gordons Expenditures allowed	186,275.13
Bal. so far as Mr. Gordon is concerned	110,224.87

Amount received by Dr. R. M. Patterson, who was entrusted to procure the

Bal^c. bro^t. forward 110,224. 87

machinery & apparatus, viz

Warrant N^o.	1437	dated	Augt. 17°. 1835.	$8,000.	
" "	2459.	"	Jany 30°. 1836.	8,000.	
" "	3771.	"	Septr. 8°. "	10,000.	
" "	4813.	"	Febry 28°. 1837.	13,000.	
" "	6060.	"	July 25. "	7,500.	
" "	7711.	"	Febry 26°. 1838.	710.	47,210. 00

which I suppose was all expended, for it appears that D^r. Patterson drew monies out under several other heads of app^{n} which together with the above amounted to the sum of $68,811. 22, and when his account was rendered, there appeared to be a balance remaining in his hands of only $. 853. 01.

Bal^c. after deducting Expenditures by Gordon and Patterson . . . . . . $ 63,014. 87

But it appears that M^r. Forstall & M^r. Cammack were permitted to draw out money under the aforesaid appropriations M^r. Forstall to the amount of the following, viz

Warrant N^o.	8621.	dated	May 23° 1838.	$10,000.
" "	9118.	"	July 9°. "	10,000.
" "	9447.	"	Augt. 25. "	10,000.
" "	10,150.	"	Novr. 17. "	10,000.
" "	2.	"	Jany 2°. 1839.	5000.
" "	1500.	"	June 5. "	5000.
				$50,000. "

The Am^t. expended by him was . . 46,065. 25.

Leaving a Bal^c. over his Expenditures of . . $. 3,934. 75.

which

which I suppose was delivered over to Mr. Cammack, when he superseded Mr. Forstall.

Mr. Cammack recd. Warrants on said appropriation to the amount of the following, viz

Warrant No. 3139 dated Nov. 19. 1839 $ 3,500.
" " 3999. " March 17. 1840. 1,000.
$4,500.

The amount expended by him to
31. March 1840. was . . . . 2,894. 06.
$1,605. 94.

To which add the sum supposed to have been delivered to him by Forstall . . . . 3,934. 75.
Bal. remaining in hands of Cammack 31. March 1840. . . } . . $5,540. 69.

Amount of the appropriations . . . $296,500. 00.
From which deduct whole amt. drawn out by Warrants, viz.
By Gordon . . . . $186,275. 13.
By Patterson . . . . 47,210. 00.
" Forstall . . . . 50 000. 00.
" Cammack . . . . 4,500. 00. 287,985. 13.
Balance in Treasury . . . . $ 8,514. 87.

1 QUARTER APRIL 1 _1840

The following are the Expenditures by E. Forstall charged under the head of the appropriation "for furnishing establishment inclusive of all apparatus, tools and fixtures not included in contracts," viz.

Bills of sundry persons from Jan. 23d to March 31st 1838, for furniture, Masons Work, Carpenters — Work &c	2,942. 70.
From April 4th to June 30th 1838 for Maps, Iron, furniture, mason's work, digging Wells for Cisterns, Lumber &c amounting to ×	5,769. 82.

× in which included an item of $40, for a bust of E. Livingston, which should have been disallowed, when the account was adjusted.

Amt. paid McCracken for Book Case tables &c chs under sd Appropn . . .	258. 00.
	8,970. 52.

The following are charged under head of building & Machinery

Account of Kain & Stroud from 26th Decr 1837 to 24th Feby 1838 for Mantles, grates, shelves, hearths &c	859. 50.
Bills of sundry persons from 28th May to 11th June 1838 for mantle pieces, grates, railing &c . —	3,859. 25.
Bills of sundry persons for building out houses &c from 1st July to 30th Septr 1838.	11,749. 46.
	16,468. 21.

From 1st Octr to 31. Decr 1838. for

painting

painting & glazing, Iron railing, building outhouses &c	18,079.73.
From 1st Jany to 31st March 1839 for labor, bricks, Mantles, Castings, grates, fixings &c	9,977.56.
From 1st April to 30th June 1839, for plastering, making gutters, repairing outhouses, fixing doors, cupboards, closets &c	1539.75.
	$46,065.25.

Amount expended and charged under head of Building & Machinery by H. Cammack, viz.

Bills of sundry persons for Carpenters work, hanging bells, paper hanging, lumber, bricks, painting, repairs &c during 4th quarter 1839. - - - - -	1,913.94.
1st quarter 1840 for carpenters work Mantle piece, Mason's work, repairs &c	980.12.
	2,894.06.
	48,959.31.

Among those Expenditures charged as incidental & contingent are items for furniture, Carpenters work, finishing outhouses, painting, repairs, &c

Mint of the United States,
April 1, 1840.

Sir,

I send you herewith a statement of my account of moneys received ~~receipts~~ & expended on behalf of your Mint, during the Quarter just closed, together with the necessary vouchers. A balance remains in my hands, to your Credit, of $616.53.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson.
Director,

To/
H. C. Cammack, Esq.,
Treasurer of Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/

H. C. Cammack, Esq.,
Treasr. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

April 1, 1840.

April

1840

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans April 1. 1840

Sir,

Enclosed you have our Statement for March, shewing a coinage larger than that of any other Month, since this Mint went into operation.—

I have just rec.d thro' the Secretary of the Treasury three boxes of dies, of which (as the mail is now about closing) I will give you the denominations in my next.

Very respectfully
Your obed.t Servant
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq.re
Director of the Mint of
the U. S.
Phil.a

Our acids have not yet arrived.—

(From)

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
April 1.
Rec'd " 13. 1840.

(Report for March.)

1840		By Amount brought forward	146.652	68
March	31	" Carriere Durant & Co for 1 Silver deposite due them	95	39
"	"	" Rolph Marsh & Co " 1 do do " "	955	75
"	"	" Nicholas Lewis " 1 do do " "	960	44
"	"	" A. Rouſseau " 1 do do " "	98	36
"	"	" Wm McQueen " 1 do do " "	118	15
"	"	" V. C. Kennedy " 1 do do " "	119	97
"	"	" A. Maynard " 1 Gold do " "	116	52
"	"	" Louis Solomon " 1 Silver do " "	250	33
"	"	" F. Lampre " 2 do do " "	1808	04
"	"	" Mariano Garcia " 1 do do " "	98	02
"	"	" M. A. King " 2 do do " "	585	61
"	"	" V. Pinard " 1 do do " "	100	49
"	"	" R.D. Bloſsman " 1 do do " "	1.267	85
"	"	" Citizens' Bk. of Loua. " 3 do do " "	16521	41
"	"	" Bank of Louisiana " 1 do do " "	20116	57
			189.865	58

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, March 31st 1840.

R. C. Cammack
Treasr.

Dr Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans Cr

1840				Dollars	cts
March	31	To	Coiner his account of Gold, for 57.330 oz Standard Gold, to be accounted for by him	1066	60
"	"	"	Coiner his account of Silver, for 11.315.55 oz Standard Silver, to be accounted for by him	13.167	14
"	"	"	Melter & Refiner his acct. of Gold, for 2965.092 oz. Stand. Gold, to be accounted for by him	55.164	57
"	"	"	Melter & Refiner his acct. of Silver, for 74.914.60 oz. Stand Silver, to be accounted for by him	87.173	34
"	"	"	Gold Coinage, for balance of this account	16.354	16
"	"	"	Silver Coinage, for do " " do	14.597	67
"	"	"	Edmd. Forstall, for do " " do	2.342	16
			Carried Forward	189.865	58

1840				Dollars	cts
March	31	By	Gold Bullion purchased for Coinage, for 2.820 oz Stand. Gold due the Treasurer	52	61
"	"	"	Silver Bullion purchased for Coinage, for 40.84 oz. Stand Silver due the Treasurer	48	79
"	"	"	United States Deposit Account, for balance of this account	122.400	00
"	"	"	Profit & Loss, for balance of this account	3.820	63
"	"	"	Treasurer of the U. States, (Special deposits) for balance of this account	1.700	00
"	"	"	M. de Lizardi & Co, for 1 gold deposit due them	161	82
"	"	"	J. W. Zacharie & Co " 1 Silver do " "	16.287	47
"	"	"	A. D. Crossman " 1 gold do " "	56	83
"	"	"	J. H. Martinstein " 1 Silver do " "	105	41
"	"	"	Office Citizens' Bank " 1 do do " "	200	75
"	"	"	D. Couteaud " 3 do do " "	297	85
"	"	"	E. Cassard " 1 do do " "	100	72
"	"	"	L. Manhavialo " 2 do do " "	250	04
"	"	"	B. Ougatte " 1 do do " "	100	20
"	"	"	Gabriel Vansing " 1 do do " "	94	06
"	"	"	C. Clapion " 1 do do " "	95	68
"	"	"	A. Lacroix " 1 do do " "	227	74
"	"	"	Yeatman Woods & Co " 1 do do " "	350	47
"	"	"	C. Maitre " 1 do do " "	100	55
"	"	"	E. George " 1 do do " "	101	93
"	"	"	G. Fortuna " 1 do do " "	99	13
			Carried Forward	146.652	68

1840	To Amount brought forward	189.865 58
		189.865 58

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of March 1840

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces	dec	Ounces	dec	Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts
Gold:										
U. S. Bullion, Say	64	91	70	751	1316	29	1313	85		
Foreign Bullion "	23	90	23	904	444	72	443	90		
Foreign Coins "	620	03	608	665	11323	95	11323	95		
									13.084	96
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion, Say	21.330	30	22.979	07	26.739	27	26.503	44		
Foreign Coins "	34.089	10	33.912	67	39.461	50	39.461	50		
									66.200	77
Total deposites									79.285	73

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:					
Half Eagles Say	200	1.000	00		
Quarter Eagles "	14.000	35.000	00		
				36.000	00
Silver:					
Half Dollars Say	84.000	42.000	00		
Dimes "	215.000	21.500	00		
Half Dimes "	30.000	1.500	00		
				65.000	00
Total pieces =	343,200				
Total Coinage				101.000	00

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office 31st March 1840.

H. C. Cammack
Treasurer.

Mint of the U. S.
April 2. 1840.

Sir,

I send you herewith Bills of Lading for 25 carboys more of Acid shipped on the 27th ult., and for one hhd. of Black Lead pots, shipped on the 30th ult. These pots are No. 60, and larger ones will be sent as soon as they can be procured. Black Lead pot-covers have been ordered from the Manufacturers, and will be shipped to you from Boston as soon as they can be made.

Please to inform me if Lead pots No. 120 could be used in your furnaces: these can be obtained here at once, while those of No. 80 must be imported, ~~and~~ with a delay of at least 6 months.

R. M. P.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint.
New Orleans.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

April 2. 1840.

NEW ORLEANS - 1840 (CONT.)

U. S. Branch Mint N. Orleans
April 12. 1840

Sir,

It was with no small degree of surprise that I learned from your letter of the 24th ulto that attempts had been made (indirectly you presume) "to convey to the mind of the Secretary of the Treasury, impressions unfavorable to the official character of Mr Tyler". Under such circumstances you apply to me for information and for my frank opinion. I will answer your inquiries in the order in which they are made.

I have always found Mr Tyler attentive to his business in the Mint, he has shown a proper anxiety to get forward with his work, and I have no cause to be dissatisfied with him. The fact of an unreasonable accumulation of ingots in his hands, or in those of the Treasurer, has never come to my knowledge, he has "from time to time" coined all the ingots prepared for him, and has also been able to keep pace with the Melter. If it has happened once or twice only, that a little delay has taken place in the department of the latter, it was, first, because a considerable quantity of bullion (some of which we still have on hand) has required separating and that it is difficult here, and sometimes impossible to obtain the acids, and, in the next place on account of the necessity of returning a large number of ingots to be refined, from the circumstance of their containing antimony - The demand for half-dimes has not been of late very considerable - Should it ever become so, *that* coinage shall be restricted within such limits as will not keep the Mint "behind hand and in debt" -

I have no fault to find with *any* of the officers. *In* the Mint they all appear to be disposed so to discharge the duties of their respective departments, as to preserve harmony in the Institution, and to win for it, your approbation and the confidence of the public. If there be any *extralimitary* intrigue ~~influence~~ on foot, I do not know it. Have you any idea of the source from which the Secretary of the Treasury has derived his information - You suggest to me the propriety if I think the insinuations against Mr. Tyler unfounded, of considering the subject of your communication confidential - Having much confidence in Mr. Cammack, and knowing in how great a degree he has the interests of the Mint at heart, I have deemed it proper to show that communication to him, with the same injunction, and with the request that he will state at the foot of this letter, whether he concurs with me, in the Statement I have given at your desire.

The dies that we have recd, are
1 pr. of 1/2 dolls
1 pr. " 1/4 ditto
1 pr. of dimes
1 pr. of 1/2 ditto and
1 pr. of 1/4 eagles -

We have also recd Bills of lading for articles shipped on the 14th and 20th ulto -

The rules given by you in the place of your former instructions in relation to the ingots and clippings that pass between the Melter and Coiner, shall be observed for the future -

very respectfully
Your obedt. Servant
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director &c
Pha.

I concur in the above letter. I think Mr Tyler has always shown great anxiety to get forward with the coinage -

A. Cammack
Tresr

From/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
April 12. } 1840.
Rec'd " 22. }

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director of the Mint
of the U. S.
Philadelphia

NEW ORLEANS La.
APR 13

Copy.

Senate Chamber, April 13th 1840.

Dear Sir,

I have reason to believe that the branch mint at New Orleans has done something better during the month of March than heretofore; that it has coined about $100,000; but that is but little more than the one third of the capacity of that Mint.

I hope that the chapter of excuses is exhausted, and that we are going to see what the Mint can do. As yet I have seen no quarter dollars mentioned from that Mint. Can you do me the favor to enquire whether they have dies and a preſs for that coin? and if so, when they received them? and what is the reason they do not work? Also, whether they work but one preſs at a time? and if so, why not work two or three? Also, whether they have the dies for the eagle? Dr. Patterson, I presume, can answer all these questions; and I prefer to get the answers through you, without the formality of a call through the Senate.

That Branch Mint at N. O. was one of

my pet children. It has disappointed me sadly thus far; we have had excuses for three years, and I want no more of them. I now want to see a coinage at the rate of $3,000,000. per annum.

Yours truly
(Signed) Thomas H. Benton.

Hon. Mr. Woodbury
Secr. of the Treasury.

Treasury Department
April 14. 1840.

Sir,

I enclose a copy of a communication, received, this morning, from Mr. Benton of the Senate, and will thank you for such information as will enable me to reply to Mr. B's enquiries —

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Philadelphia.

From

Sec. of Treasury.
April 14.
Recd " 16. 1840.

Mint of the United States.
April 16/41.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., enclosing ~~one~~ a copy of one to you of the 13th, from Mr. Benton of the Senate, making inquiries respecting the New Orleans Mint.

In answer to Mr. Benton's first question, I have to state that the New Orleans Mint has a quarter-dollar press, and has had quarter-dollar dies sent to it from here, in January and in March. If no quarter-dollars have been coined, I must presume that it is because they have not been asked for by depositors. Of all silver coins (except dollars,) they are by far the least in demand here. At New Orleans, the coin most ~~sought for~~ required of the Mint is the half-dime, in which a petty traffick is carried on, in consequence of ~~their~~ its being current at 6¼ cents. I agree, however, fully, with Mr. Benton, that quarter-dollars ought to be coined at New Orleans, and I will call the attention of the Superintendent to this matter.

I am not able to give a positive answer to the question whether ~~more presses than one~~ they use more than one press at a time at the New Orleans Mint; but it is certain that ~~one~~

~~press constantly employed~~ they need not employ more than one to strike all the planchets that they can prepare with their force, and far more than all the bullion given to them for coinage. The deposites in March amounted to but ~~$79,286~~ $13,085 in gold, and $66,201 in silver. The gold could be *struck*, in half ~~and quarter~~ eagles, in about an hour and a half, and in quarter-eagles in about three hours. The silver, if coined into half dollars, would occupy one press 44 hours, or ~~about~~ less than five days work: quarter-dollars would take somewhat less than twice this time. ~~nearly~~. Our present rate of coining dimes and half dimes, is 84 in a minute, or 5000 pieces in an hour, with one press. A days work, of ten hours, would therefore give $5,000 worth of dimes, and $2,500 of half-dimes. The great ~~labor~~ expenditure of time and labor in making coins is not in the press-work, but in the numerous and often complicated processes necessary to prepare the bullion for the press. During the last year, when we coined more than $3,000,000 worth, ~~we did not~~ there was not, on an *average*, more than one press constantly employed, ~~though~~ and in ~~this~~ the work done I include the striking of upwards of three millions of cents.

I have not supplied the New Orleans Mint with dies for the eagle, because I think it ~~proper~~ better that the small amount of gold which they receive should be coined into half and quarter eagles.

~~The Branch Mint at New Orleans has disappointed, thus far, all those who urged its establishment~~

I desire, as sincerely as Mr. Benton, that there may be no more *excuses* from the New Orleans Mint, and especially such excuses as occurred last year in the death of two of the officers and the removal of two others. ~~for any sufficient cause~~. At present, ~~I apprehend~~ the principal excuse to be apprehended ~~in all the~~ is a deficiency of bullion for coinage.

R. M. P.
D. M.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

April 16. 1840.

Branch Mint of the United States,
New Orleans, April 17th 1840

Sir

I have received your esteemed favor of the 1st. instant, covering your account of moneys received & expended on behalf of this Mint, during the first quarter of the present year, and shewing balance in your hands to my Credit $616.53. which is correct.

Your letter of the 4th. March to Mr. Kennedy answers mine of the 14th. of the previous month, but it appears that the enquiry I made of you, respecting the "right to exchange American Coins for foreign", was not expressed plainly enough to be understood by you, in as much as both the interpretations of which you say it is susceptible, and according to which you framed your reply, do not answer my enquiry; I will therefore, now endeavour to explain my views to you in the plainest possible manner.

Some of our Banks here, will not deposite Mexn. Coins to be melted, assayed &c according to the regulations of the Mint, as they are unwilling to run the risk of sustaining any loss, should there be any, but they are willing to exchange them for American Coins, at their nominal value, say One thousand Mexican Dollars, for One thousand American. I wish to know whether it would be warrantable for me, (after we are out of debt) to make such exchanges at the risk of the Mint, or at my own risk: By this means, the Mint can always have a fair supply of Bullion for its operations.

I should also like to Know, if I can have coined the money received to pay contingent expenses, and in doing so, if it is at my own risk: under the impression that this could be done, I have had coined the two last sums received by me from the Government. Will you will please give me your views.–

My quarterly accounts go forward, by the mail that carries this, to the Secretary of the Treasury.– I send you a copy of our balance Sheet, for your examination, and will be pleased to furnish any other document, which may be in any way interesting to you.– I am anxious to have my accounts in perfect order, should you see or hear of the smallest irregularity, I trust you will point it out to me.–

Mr. Kennedy has it in contemplation to apply for an increase in the United States Deposite Account, say for $100.000 more, which will be sufficient to keep the Mint regularly supplied with Bullion, which can not be done with the present deposite.

I am Sir,
with great respect
Yours very faithfully
H. C. Cammack
Treas.r

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint

From H. C. Cammack
~~Jos. M. Kennedy~~, Esq.
Treasr ~~Supt.~~ Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
April 17.
Recd " 27. 1840.

Dr R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

NEW ORLEANS LA. APR 18

Branch Mint of the United States.
New Orleans April 18th 1840

Sir

I have thought it prudent to keep you fully informed at all times, of the conditions of our coining dies — I have received in 1840. three pair each, of ½ $. dimes & ½ dimes. — 2 of ¼ dollars. 1 of ¼ & 1 of ½ eagles — which are disposed of as follows —

The first pair of ½ dollars. stamped about 50.000 pieces. and gave away either from bad hardening, or from using bad silver. the latter of which I am inclined to think was the case. from the fact of their both breaking about the same time. and presenting the same peculiar fracture. as also from the fact of finding several coins in the box containing iron. Two pairs of ½ dimes & 1 of dimes were broken in the same way before I discovered that the silver contained iron. when on farther examination I found I had several draughts of ingots containing large pieces of iron or steel. All of which was duly represented to the Supt. and returned for refining. The second pair of ½ dollars dies struck about 150.000 pieces. when the tail die gradually gave out. The second Head and third tail, are now in the press. in good order. the head having struck upwards of 300.000. pieces. from the appearance of the tail I think it will not last longer than this month out — The second pair of dimes struck 310.000 pieces. and are still passably good. the

the third pair are both too short for the press. notwithstanding which I could use them both by fitting cups to their bottoms as I have done once before. but the tail die is too shallow not having a full bead before grinding— The third ½ dimes have not yet been tried from the fact of my not—having had any silver since about the 25th last month from which I could possibly work small coins.

The quarter dollar press has been refitted. & the dies prepared for use. but owing to the M & R. not having ingot moulds enough. they will not be called in requisition for some length of time ~~yet~~.

Thus you will see. I am confined almost to 1 pair of ½ dollars. & 1 of ½ dime dies. yet I believe you will be satisfied from the above statement that thus far they have done all that could be expected of them, and from the difficulties arising from our being at such a great distance from the mother Mint I am sure you will see the propriety of our having at least three pair of the denominations most in use at all times on hand. I have made great improvement in hardening and tempering the dies, since I commenced & hope before many days to give entire satisfaction in that respect. I entertain no fears for the performance of *my own* department provided the silver is supplied to me in a proper state for coining

In re*building* the middle size press I have deviated in some respects from the former plans and proportions. & thus far the result is very favourable, especially in the plan for pivots. or centres of the triangle as also in the mode of suspending it by a jointed connection. which I think would enable me to run the press. 100. ~~per~~ revolutions per minute. but I fear for the feeding — consequently I geared it at about 80. per minute

As our presses have been altered since they left Philad^a. I have thought it best to send you the lengths for the dies - of the three presses — which are as follows

Length of	½ dollar	when	fitted —		tail die — —	2 1/8 inches
"	"	"	"	"	head " — —	2 "
"	¼	"	"	"	head & tail alike	$1\frac{2}{16}$
"	dime		"	"	tail	$1\frac{3}{16}$
"	"		"	"	head	1 1/4

Very Respectfully
Your Faithful Servant.
Philos B. Tyler
Coiner

To
Dr. R. M. Patterson.
Director. U.S. Mint

From/
Philos B. Tyler, Esq.
Coiner Br: Mint.
New Orleans.
April 18.
Rec'd " 29. 1840.

Dr R. M. Patterson:
Director U.S. Mint
Philadelphia

N. ORLEANS
25

Mint U. S.

April 22d, 1840.

Sir,

~~I received, this morning, your letter~~ of ~~the~~ I have to acknowledge the receipt of your amended report for January and February, and of your report for March. The last is particularly satisfactory, as it holds out the prospect of your soon getting your coinage in advance of all the claims upon you, so as to make the government deposits sufficient for the purchase of bullion ~~by~~ with prompt payment.

I have also to acknowledge the receipt, this morning, of your letter of the 12th inst., in answer to mine of the 24th ult., on the subject of certain insinuations unfavorable to the official character of Mr. Tyler. I ~~send~~ have sent a copy of this correspondence to the Secretary of the Treasury, and this will close the matter for the present. I returned, ~~from~~ yesterday, from a short visit to Washington, where ~~and~~ I found Col. Benton, (from whom the inquiry certainly came that led to the Secretary's letter,) in much ~~to~~ better humor with your Mint, in consequence of the March report. ~~He thinks, however~~

~~that you ought to be coining at the rate of three millions a year.~~

I send, ~~subjoined~~ enclosed, a copy of a recent correspondence respecting your Mint, ~~which~~ with which it is well for you to be acquainted. I would particularly call your attention to that part which regards the coinage of quarter dollars.

R. M. P.
D. M.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

April 22. 1840.

Mint U.S.

April 22d 1840.

Sir,

In the close of my letter to you of the 21st ult., in reply to your inquiries respecting the qualifications of the ~~New Orleans~~ Coiner, of the New Orleans Mint, I mentioned that "I would write to Mr. Kennedy, and make inquiry as to his impressions with regard to Mr. Tyler's discharge of his functions." I have now the honor to send you copies of my letter to Mr. Kennedy, and of his answer, received this morning.

R. M. P.
D. M.

to/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

April 22. 1840.

Mint U.S.

April 27/46.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst.

I thank you for sending me a copy of your quarterly account, as I am always glad to be made acquainted with your transactions, even when I have no immediate official control over them.

You say that Mr. Kennedy has it in contemplation to apply for an increase in your government deposits. I know that a good fund of this kind is very advantageous in Mint operations, and I wish the ~~app. contem~~ intended application could succeed. I have little ~~no~~ hope of it however. The public treasury is now too poor, I fear, to admit of the ~~withdrawal~~ ~~of~~ appropriation ~~of~~ which you desire.

In my letter of the 6th of March, I explain, at large, the course pursued at this Mint, as to the valuation of deposits of Mexican dollars, and I will add that I do not think it would be safe or right to pursue any less rigid course. When deposits of Mexican dollars are made with us, we have often made prompt payment, *on account*, and to the *nominal* value of the deposits. But this must never be a final transaction. ~~Those~~ We have, I believe without exception, found a balance remaining due to the depositor: but if it should prove otherwise, in consequence of a mixture of counterfeits or any other cause, then the depositor must be required to return the ~~balance~~ difference. I speak now of the case in which half-dollars are coined. Where small coins are required, and the charge for toughening is made, there is a slight loss ~~on dep~~ to the depositor, on Mexican dollars. I object, altogether, to any bargain, that the Mint shall return the nominal value, whatever may be the true value. On the whole, such a traffic would be profitable to the Mint, but then it is decidedly illegal.

Your question as to the re-coinage of foreign ~~coins~~ money, received from the government for the payment of contingent expenses, is a very important one, which has frequently presented itself to my own mind, but on which we have not yet acted at this Mint. I think it very desirable that such recoinage should be made; but there is difficulty in the way, presented by the fact that there will be a profit or a loss in the operation. It appears to me, therefore, that authority for such recoinage should be asked of the Department, with the attendant privilege of opening a profit and loss account on this coinage of such government remittances. If the subtreasury system shall be established, the question will be increased in importance. I will ~~of~~ write to the Secretary of the Treasury on the subject, and let you know his decision. It would be monstrous that the Mints should pay out foreign coins,— especially ~~such as~~ if they do not correspond with our monetary system,—such as British Sovereigns, &c.

R. M. P.
D. M.

To/
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasurer of Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

April 27. 1840.

Mint of the United States,
April 28. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of ~~forwarding~~ transmitting to you, by the present mail, a box of dies for the Br. Mint at New Orleans, to be forwarded under your frank to the Superintendent, a addressed upon the inner envelope.

Very respectfully,
yr ——— R.M.P.
D———

(To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treas.

(to)

Sec. of Treasury.

April 28. 1840.

Mint of the United States,
April 28. 1840.

Sir,

I send by the present mail to the Secretary of the Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his frank, a box containing

1	Half dollar	tail die
1	Dime	do. do.
1	Half-dime	do. do.

Mr. Tyler informs me that he has a supply of head-dies of the above denominations.

R. M. P.
Director.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy,
Supt. Br. Mint.
New Orleans.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy. Esq
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

April 28. 1840.

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans 29th April 1840

Sir

On receipt hereof, you will please pay to Messrs Baldwin Vail & Hufty, a bill of theirs against this Branch Mint, amounting to $196.50 being cost of one pair of Ingot Shears made for the Melter and Refiners department. Which amount you will please charge to my account, as Treasurer of this Branch Mint.

I am with great respect
Yours very faithfully
H. C. Cammack
Treasr.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint.

From
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
April 29.
Rec'd May 11. 1840.

May 1840

In the account of George W. Slacum, U. States Consul at Rio de Janeiro, from 31 May to 31 August 1839, the following charge occurs, which is respectfully referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

"Amount paid the Comptroller of the Imperial Treasury for Brazilian Coins, ordered by Mr. Patterson, Director of the Mint, at Philadelphia	24.24"
Commission thereon at 5 perCent.	1.21
Dolls	25.45

Treasury Department
Fifth Auditor's Office.
April 29, 1840.

Treasury Department
April 29. 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt, this morning, of a box of dies, which has been forwarded to the Sup. of the branch Mint at N. Orleans.

Enclosed you will receive an extract from the account of G. W. Slacum Consul of U States at R. Janeiro being his charge for Coins furnished for the Mint, and I would take occasion to remark that it is desirable this and similar accounts forwarded to the Mint should be arranged as early as practicable, that the parties may be credited here in their respective accounts with the Government.

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada.

From

Sec. of Treasury.

April 29.

Rec'd May 1. 1840

May

1840

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage at the Branch Mint at New Orleans in the month of April 1840

Deposites										
Kind of Deposites	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces,	dec.	Ounces,	dec.	Dolls,	cts.	Doll,	cts.	Dollars,	cts.
Gold:										
U. S. Bullion, say	56	43	40	670	756	64	749	56		
Foreign Bullion, "	53	19	37	114	690	48	690	14		
Foreign Coins, "	1134	97	1099	136	20.449	00	20449	00		
									21.896	12
Silver:										
U. S. Bullion, say	47	44	17	55	20	42	20	37		
Foreign Bullion, "	1.402	05	1444	61	1680	97	1678	23		
Foreign Coins, "	46.550	25	46346	39	53930	14	53930	14		
									55.631	53
								Total deposites	77.527	65

Coinage					
Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars,	cts	Dollars,	cts
Gold:					
Quarter Eagles, say	8.800.	22.000	00		
				22.000	00
Silver					
Half Dollars, say	82.000	41.000	00		
Quarter Dollars, "	20.000	5.000	00		
Dimes "	20.000	2.000	00		
				48.000	00
Total pieces	130,800 ~~122,000~~				
		Total Coinage		70.000	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, April 30th 1840
H. Cammack
Treasurer

U. S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans May 3d 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a statement of our operations for the month of April, and will write you in relation to it by tomorrow's mail.

very respectfully
Yr obedt Servt
J M Kennedy
Supt

R. M. Patterson Esqre
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Phila

From Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

May 3.
Rec'd " 15. 1840.

April report.

May 1840

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans May 7. 1840

Sir,

In my last to you of the 3d instant, enclosing our Statement for April, I said that I would by the next day's mail write you in relation to that Statement. What I meant was, that I would assign the cause, why our Coinage for that month, fell so far short of that for March—

This explanation has been delayed a little, in consequence of certain inquiries made by me of the Coiner, respecting our quarter-dollar press, to which I requested, at his earliest leisure, a reply, which I intended, at the same time, to submit to you as furnishing the reason why that press was not sooner put in operation— It was not until yesterday that I recd. Mr. Tyler's communication, from which I will give you a few extracts.

"When we commenced in November last, I
"found the press in the same condition as when it
"arrived from Phila.— The rock-shaft was broken.
"The triangle opened a crack near the Socket—
"The ball and socket, as well as the two upper
"joints were worn rough so as to require refitting.

" About the 1st of Jan.y I commenced by your request to put the press in working order. I found it necessary to make a new triangle, and availed myself of the opportunity for altering its pivots, and mode of shifting to the improved plan adopted and found beneficial in the two other presses - I also made a new ball and socket, as the old one could not be properly secured to the triangle - The two upper joints were refitted, and grooves cut to receive the oil &c - also a new rock shaft, a new tube, and new forceps or pitchers, as the press had never been used for ¼ $. By your advice I also detached the fly wheel from the main shaft, and secured it by a friction collar &c &c - It was completed about the 1st of April last - During the time it was repairing I employed generally only one hand, but kept workmen at it during their leisure from the operations of coining - The dies were then fitted, and as soon as the cutting dies could be made, the milling machine prepared, and the silver passed through the several processes preparatory to stamping, the press was put into operation, which was "in the 14th of April"

We were, in the early part of April thrown back some 8 or 10 days in the coinage in consequence of a large deposite of Silver which it was found exceedingly difficult to work the Melter having had to refine it as often as three times - The new deposites were at that moment inconsiderable, we had very little bullion on hand that did not require separating and it was late in the Month before we recd our acids from Philadelphia - There were in all 48 Carboys, one having been broken on board of each vessel - The two boxes containing the scales and weights and one package of copper syphons have also come to hand - We are in hopes that the coinage for this Month, will make up for the small amount of that of the last -

I trust that these "excuses" will be deemed sufficient by you, altho they might perhaps not satisfy Mr. Barton - I could but contrast the authoritative tone of his letter to the Secretary of the Treasury ~~Secretary~~, with the communications of him in whose hands the law has put the controul of the Branch Mints — If he be satisfied, that under all the circumstances we are doing our best, the "humor" that Mr Benton happens to be in, is not of much importance —

I am sir, with great respect
your humble servant
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director &c
Phil.a

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director of the Mint of the U.S.
Philadelphia.

NEW ORLEANS
9 MAY
LA.

From
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq
Supt. Br. Mint
New Orleans.
May 7.
Rec'd " 18. 1840.

Mint U. S. — May 12/40.

Sir,

You are aware that all my efforts to call the attention of Congress to the errors and evils arising from the existing laws making certain foreign coins a legal tender have failed. There is one form in which this matter presents itself that is particularly annoying; and ~~which can~~ where the remedy may be applied, as I presume, by a simple instruction from yourself. I refer to the reissue, from the Mints themselves, of foreign coins derived from the government for paying ordinary expenses. At the New Orleans Mint, the Treasurer informs me that he has caused such moneys to be received; but this course will always have the effect of changing the nominal value of the amount, and ~~of~~ will require that corresponding entries be made in the bullion profit and loss account. Under these circumstances, I do not think it proper to act in the case without authority from the Department, and I accordingly ask for such authority.

In connexion with this subject, it may not be improper to direct your attention to the 3d Section of the "Act ~~of~~ regulating foreign coins and for other purposes," passed Feb. 9, 1793. It is as follows.

"That all foreign gold and silver coins, (except Spanish milled dollars and parts of such dollars,) which shall be received in payment for monies due to the United States, after the said time, ~~[at the expiration of three years after the coinage shall~~ not ~~commence at the Mint, to be announced by proclamation of of the President,]~~ &c when the coining of gold and silver coins shall begin at the Mint of the U.S., shall, previously to their being issued in circulation, be coined ~~and~~ anew, in conformity to the Act entitled an act ~~entitled~~ ~~an act~~ establishing a Mint, and regulating the coins of the U.S."

I suppose that the subsequent laws making foreign coins a legal tender have virtually ~~suspended~~ superseded this enactment, — but it shows the ~~policy~~ views of the government at the time, and what I believe to be its true policy now.

R. M. P.

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

(To) Sec. of Treasury.

May 12. 1840.

To
Dr Patterson   New Orleans May 16th 1840
Director of the U S Mints.

Respected Sir   You will perhaps be surprised to recieve these few lines from one who is so little known to you. but I feel convinced that the circumstances in which I am placed demand the correspondance on my part. The circumstances are simply these you will perhaps recollect that I came out here immediatly after the Lamented Mr Maxwell the late Melter & Refiner of the U S Branch Mint at this place in whose employment I remained as Foreman of the melting department up to the time of his death. and was continued in that employ of the Mint in the melting department untill the appointment of Dr Reddell the present incumbent by whom I was also imployed as Foreman of the Melter & Refiner's Department The duties of which station I have the humble satisfaction of believing were faithfully and honestly performed by me during the whole time I was so engaged; of this however I would leave others to speak and therefore refer to the letters of Mr Maxwell the late Melter & Refiner and to Mr H C Cammack the present Treasurer also Mr Jacob Barker of this city

But to my utter surprise and astonishment and without any reason being assigned about the 1st of April last Dr Riddell informed me that I was discharged from the department of the Mint under his direction, Thus without any aparent cause being assigned I found my self thrown out of a situation in which I am not concious of having committed any intentional error nor is any laid to my charge and in the performance of the duties appertaining to the station which I held I have undergone that pestilence of a southern climite the Yellow Fever and at the time of my discharge I had just taken upon myself the responsibilities of a matrimonial engagement, I found my-self compelled either to quite the Mint and seek for employment elsewhere or accept an iferior station in the coiners department. Thus finding my hope of advancement blasted at once and myself placed in a situation from which the most unfavorable inferences might be drawn in relation to my character and actions more especially as Dr Riddell has admited that I understood & had faithfully performed my duties, which will very naturally lead to the supposition that he would not discharge a man who understood and performed his duties without sufficient reason these and a number of other conclusions equally as unfavorable to my character might be infered from the position which I am thus thrown into, hoping that you will excuse me for troubling you with this long epistle. In conclusion I would add that I do not expect to be restored to the station which I held in the Melter & Refiners department nor would I ~~accept~~ to accept such a restoration under the direction of the present incumbent. I therefore beg leave to lay the foregoing grievences before you feeling satisfied that whaever action you may take on the subject will be satisfactory.

I very respectifully
your humble servent
Peter S Levick

To Dr Patterson
Director of the U. S. Mints

P. S. as my Friends are most all livink in Phila and should you think proper to inquire of my respetability I refer you to E. Levick 242 north Third St a Leather dealer and To Levick & Jenkins 150 Market St Shoe Dealers

From/ Peter S. Levick,
Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

May 16.
Recd " 27. 1840.

Dr. Patterson
Director of the U S Mint
Philada Pa

NEW ORLEANS
MAY 18

of

c

New Orleans 17th May
1840.

Respected Sir

I take the liberty of flying to you for protection as I cannot obtain it here being discharged from the mint by Dr Riddle and without his aſsigning any cause, my character is injured, I am even looked upon with suspicion by those who heretofore would serve me and who know that I was employed in the mint am now discharged and nobody knows why. I went to the superintendent for redreſs and he only fed me with promises which were never realized,

the following is the substance of my dispute with Dr. Riddle: he made a contract with me, prior to the first of April to work in his department at a salary of $65. per month but compelled me to the agreement of paying him 50cts per day, (for the purpose as he said) of increasing the salary of Dr MacCarthy who is employed in the establishment and who never heared a word of the transaction from Dr. Riddle till some days after my discharge I was also compelled to board with him at $12. per month, on my reporting the nature of my contract to the superintendent, and Dr Riddle being called up, he immediately discharged me, and on the settling of my account he allows me but $1.62½ per day in the very face of our other engagement, after previously expressing himself perfectly satisfied with me, — in case of any investigation of his conduct, I am fortunate enough to have secure proofs innumerable of his guilt —

I am yours respectfully

Ewald Ernst

N. ORLEANS
MAY
18

Dr. Patterson
Director of U. S. Mints

Philadelphia.

From / Ewald Ernst,
~~Br. Mint~~
New Orleans.
May 17.
Rec'd " 27. 1840.

Mint of the United States,
May 27. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, a box of dies for the Br. Mint at New-Orleans, to be forwarded, under your frank, to the Supt., as addressed upon the inner envelope.

Two boxes more, for the same Mint, will be sent by the two next mails.

Very respectfully,
Your
R. M. P.
D.

(To)
Hon. Levi Woodbury.
Sec. of Treas.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

May 27. 1840.

(Unofficial.)

[Mint U. S. —
May 28 / 46.

Dear Sir,

I received letters yesterday from Peter S. Levick and Ewald Ernst, complaining of the circumstances under which they had been discharged from your Mint, and, the latter ~~latter~~ making accusations, of a very grave character, against Dr. Riddell. The same ~~insin~~ accusation had come to my ear before, indirectly, through a correspondent of one of our workmen; but I ~~then~~ felt assured ~~my informant~~ that it must be without foundation, as I had just received a letter from you that was utterly ~~inconsistent~~ incompatible with the existence of any such offence as that averred. ~~to me~~ The accusation, as you know, is that Dr. Riddell had employed a hand or hands, ~~with a~~ at certain wages to be paid by the government, but with a private bargain that a part of the wages was to be given up,— the first story said for the private gain of Dr. Riddell, the second for the benefit of a Dr. MacCarthy employed in the establishment. The inference which I draw from Ernst's letter is that he had made the accusation in question,— that you enquired into it, and found it false,—

and that you immediately dismissed him as a slanderer. — You will excuse me, however, for asking ~~of~~ you for the exact truth in this matter, inasmuch as the affair has been already forced upon my attention.

It is proper to ~~mention~~ state that the letter of Mr. Levick is perfectly respectful to Dr. Riddell, against whom he makes no accusation or complaint, except that he had dismissed him without cause. Levick has respectable connexions here, and says that he writes only for the purpose of removing the unfavorable impressions which his discharge might make against his character.

I have marked this letter as "unofficial", because I do not wish to institute any formal inquiry, or to express the slightest doubt of the propriety of the measures which you have taken as to the discharged men. My predilections as to Dr. Riddell are very favorable.

R. M. P.

To/
John M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint
New Orleans

P. S. We sent, by yesterday's mail, to the Sec. of Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his frank, a box containing 1 pr. of dime & 1 pr. ½ dime dies: We send to-day a box containing 1 pr. ½ dollar dies; & shall send to-morrow a third box, containing 1 pr. ½ eagle, & 1 pr. ¼ eagle dies. ~~the receipt of which please acknowledge.~~

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

May 28. 1840.

THE NEW ORLEANS SUN.

Tuesday Morning, June 2, 1840.

☞ We sincerely regret having been the means of exciting undeserved suspicion, in regard to the accounts of the melter and refiner of the Mint. Our information was derived from the misrepresentations of one who had lately been in the melter and refiner's employment, and whose authority we considered undoubted. Prompt as we are to expose abuses, we are equally ready to do justice to an injured party. It gives us pleasure therefore to publish the following:

Treasurer's Office, U. S. Branch Mint.
NEW ORLEANS, May 31, 1840.

Be it known, that I have this day, at the request of Dr. J. L. Riddell, melter and refiner of this mint, (and in the presence of J. M. Kennedy, Esq. Superintendent,) examined the contents of his vaults; I have weighed the bullion as far as it is susceptible of being weighed, and have estimated the balance, and am satisfied that the amount of gold and silver bullion in the possession of Dr. Riddell, is fully equal to that called for by the books of my office.

H. C. CAMMACK,
Treasurer U. S. Branch Mint.

N. O. Branch Mint
N. Orleans June 2nd 1840

Sir,

Enclosed you have our Statement for May. It looks much better than that for April, but has fallen considerably short of my expectations. You will perceive that there has been no gold coined during the last month. This I would endeavour to explain now, but a desire to send you this Report by this day's Mail (which is about closing) induces me to postpone it for a short time, when I will also communicate to you other matters in relation to our Institution.

I am Sir very respectfully
Yr. obedt. Servt.
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqr.
Director &c.

From/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint.
New Orleans.
June 2.
Rec'd " 15. 1840.

(Report for May.)

os — 291,[illegible]
inage — 343,600.00 — 213,650.00

Silver deposites unpaid 2d June 1840

May 4	Geo. Whitmore	$ 470„97
20	Bank of Louisiana	10.062„32
25	Citizens' Bank	20.111„01
28	F. Laville	99„38
	A. Macarty	100„43
		$ 30.844„11

Gold deposits unpaid 2d June 1840

1839 Dec. 12	A. Maynard	116„52
1840 May 23	J. Valentine	1.332„68
25	J. Hepburn	3.033„09
		$ 4.482.29

Balance of Silver Coinage $ 8.078„54
" " Gold " " 529„28

Situation of the United States Branch Mint, New Orleans

Available funds on hand

In possession of the Coiner in Gold . .	$37.071.99	
ditto " do in Silver	23.177.96	$60.249.95
ditto " Melter & Refiner in Gold	39.357.30	
ditto " do in Silver	53.457.80	92.815.10
Gold Coinage on hand		529.28
Silver Coinage on hand		50327.21
Amount due by E. Forstall, late Treasurer		2342.16
		$206.263.70

Liabilities of the Mint

Gold Bullion Acct - due to the Treasr by this a/c	$ 52.72
Silver Bullion Acct - due to the Treasr by this a/c	49.11
U.S. Deposite account, balance of this a/c . .	122.400.00
Profit & Loss, balance of this a/c	3.845.33
Treasurer of the U.S. Special deposite . . .	1.700.00
Amount due to Sundry persons for deposites of Gold & Silver }	78.216.54
	206.263.70

Gold - 4700.94
Silver 73.515.60
$.78:216:54

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, 30th May 1840.
A C Cammack
Tr.

Due the United States . . . . 122.400.
which I have in Gold - 72.204.91
in Silver - 50.195.09 - 122.400.

New Orleans June 3. 1840.

Sir

Your valued letter of the 27 April was received by me in due course and ought to have been acknowledged before

I will be glad to have from you the decision of the Secretary of the Treasury as to the propriety of coining foreign Coins which may be received from the Government for the purpose of paying Contingent expences. I agree with you that it would be horrible to pay out foreign Coins from the government mint. Until I hear further from you, I conclude it will be proper to pursue the plan that has been usual @ this mint.

In your letter you make mention of @ charge for toughening when small Coins are asked for by depositors. A Charge of this sort has never been made at this mint - nor do I understand that the Silver is toughened by the Melter & Refiner for small coins.

[The silver Coinage during the past month was larger than ever before made in one month in this Mint. With a good supply of bullion we could get on more rapidly than I had imagined possible. The Coiner struck on the 30th ultimo 40.500 half dollars in one press.

In Gold we have done nothing for a long time. The same difficulty now arises about gold ingots, that created so much trouble [illegible] [illegible] last month about silver ingots. - Several Melts have been made of Gold, which have been returned uncoined.

I will here remark to you candidly, and I do it with reluctance, that the Melting & Refining department, in its operations, has not reached

the

anticipations I had entertained, in consequence of the recommendations so warmly made by the friends of Dr Riddle - nor has he succeeded in preserving in the Mint, that harmony and good feeling, so much to be desired: & without which the operations of the Mint must be retarded, and the situation of ~~the~~ other officers rendered unpleasant. As it was I who first brought Dr Riddle's name before you for nomination, which I did without knowing him and without his knowledge, I deem it incumbent on me to apprize you of my disappointment.

I have watched most anxiously the movements in Congress respecting the Branch Mints. Some of our friends there are under the belief that there is a want of friendly feeling on the part of the of- the Mint in Philadelphia towards the branch here. I have assured them that such, in my opinion, is not the case; and have done so in such strong terms as will, I am sure, remove impressions that must have been erroneously formed.

I have not heard any thing from Washington about my accounts - and am anxious to know that they have been properly stated. I informed you some time ago that ~~I~~ the late Treasurer had used 12000 $ of the bullion fund to pay contingent expences, and that a draft for that sum, which had been askd for by Mr Bradford, had been applied by me to the reimbursement of that sum in the bullion account. I am very desirous to know that this is understood at Washington clearly, so as not to mix my accounts with Mr Forstall's in any manner. I believe that you understand the transaction, and I will be glad to know that it is all correct & approved of by you. I informed the department of the circumstance at the time.

In paying money out at the Mint, either for contingent expenses, or for bullion coined, will the receipt of a clerk, known to be in the employ of a Merchant, or Bank, be sufficient? - or should the receipts, or warrants, be signed by the principal? I allude particularly to payments made on the weighmaster's receipt where no certificate is issued. I have, in almost every instance, required the signature of a principal, but as our mint is a long way from the business part of the city, it is attended with great inconvenience ~~to the~~ particularly to Cashiers of Banks who are now willing to send us as many Mexican dollars as we can coin.

A statement of the amount due to depositors and memorandum of coins on hand, is enclosed.

Our Silver debt will be paid in less than a week unless some unexpected heavy deposites be made in the mean time.

This Branch owes to Messrs Baldwin Vail & Hufty of Philadelphia $196.50 for one pair Ingot Shears. I beg you to pay them. I would have advised this payment sometime ago - but overlooked it. I crave indulgence from these gentlemen for my want of promptness.

I have, my dear sir, written to you freely & openly. If in doing so I transcend the bounds which etiquette draws between a superior and an inferior officer, I pray you, pardon me! I feel a deep ~~sense~~ pride in the success [illegible] of this Mint and I am sure that we can look to none, for advice and support, better than to yourself.

I am with considerations of respect & esteem

your faithful servant
H. C. Cammack

To.
Doct. R. M. Patterson
director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia.

From H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasurer Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

June 3d.
Recd " 18. 1840.

Mint U. S.
June 6 / 40.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the ~~10th~~ 5th inst. on the subject of a claim ~~for extra work~~, made by Mess. Mitchell & Fox, for extra work done at the N. Orleans Mint Building.

In reply, I have only to state that, in a letter of the 11th of June last, (1839,) I communicated to the Secretary of the Treasury all the information that I possess upon this subject, ~~and~~ that ~~any~~ all further explanations with regard to it must be derived from Mr. Gordon, — and that I have not yet received from ~~Mr. Gordon~~ him the letter which you announce. I feel ~~the~~ how desirable it is that this ~~the subj.~~ ~~claim~~ business should be ~~settled~~, brought to a conclusion, but I do not know of any further step that I can take in the matter.

R. M. P.
D.

To/
Felix Connolly, Esq.
Washington.

To/ Felix Connolly, Esq.
Washington, D.C.

June 6. 1840.

No

U. S. Branch Mint N. Orleans
June 6. 1840

Sir,

I have rec.d from Mr Cammack, a note, a copy of which I now enclose, together with the letter for you, mentioned therein. In my last of the 2nd instant, accompanying our Statement for May, I observed that I would in a short time communicate to you the cause why no gold had been coined for some time at this Mint, and other information in relation to our affairs.

With regard to the gold coinage, the matter stands as stated by Mr Cammack. "Several melts have been made of gold which have been returned uncoined," the ingots having on every occasion proved too brittle. But there is a difference of opinion between the Melter and Coiner, concerning the cause of that brittleneſs, each contending, that it originates in the department of the other. Dr. Riddell is persuaded that his ingots are good. He says, that they are annealed by Mr. Tyler at too high a temperature (all that is required being "a dull red heat") and that being then immersed in the pickle, and *suddenly cooled* they are consequently brittle.

The Coiner, on the contrary maintains, that they are not well toughened, and that they should be so made by the Melter, as not to be affected in the cooling by any heat that is not beyond the "cherry red", which he says is several degrees higher than that insisted upon by the Melter.-

I am myself unable to determine between them, and am convinced that you are the only person to whom I can appeal, that would (in coming to a decision yourself, or in furnishing me with such information as would enable me to do so) *give satisfaction* to *both parties*. I could send you an ingot selected indiscriminately by me, from the number returned to the Melter as unfit to be coined, whereby you could settle the question very soon.-

An occurrence has recently taken place between Dr. Riddell, and a person of the name of McCarthy, who was employed in his department, which I think it my duty to lay before you, as it may, before its consequences are over, interfere with our operations.-

McCarthy had a quarrel a few days ago with Dr. R. and left the Mint. A report, of which he was the author, that the Melter was a dishonest man, and would prove himself a defaulter, if called upon to settle his accounts soon reached the ears of his securities. They applied to me for information, and desired that I would suggest what course they should pursue - I advised them to call on Dr. Riddell, to communicate to him what they had heard, and to state that in justice to himself, as well as them he should, without delay, throw open his vaults to the Treasurer in order that he might examine whether their contents corresponded with the amount with which he was charged. Dr. Riddell made not the slightest objection, and you will find the result in a certificate herewith enclosed, issued by the Treasurer on the day on which the examination was made, and which was inserted in those newspapers in which the report above mentioned had been previously noticed -

On the day succeeding, Dr. Riddell went to the lodgings of McCarthy and whipped him severely - He was accompanied by his brother who is the foreman of his department, and a Mr. Nevin one of his men. He took them with him, he says, merely to prove that he was without any kind of weapon. The three were shortly after brought before an Officer of Justice, who, upon hearing the evidence, committed them all for trial before the Criminal Court.

The punishment for assault and battery is fine, or imprisonment, or both at the discretion of the Court. In case of the conviction of either of the Workmen, their places may easily be supplied, but what are we to do if the Melter and Refiner should be sentenced to such an imprisonment as would materially interrupt the operations of the Mint? I will apprize you immediately of the result of the trial.

We have recd thro the Secretary of the Treasury a box containing

1/2 dollar tail die
1 dime — do do, and
1/2 dime — do do.

I am, sir, very respectfully
Your obedt Servt.
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director &c
Phila.

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the Month of May 1840

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces	dec	Ounces	dec	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:										
U. S. Coins (old Standard) Say	19	47	18	724	348	35	348	35		
Foreign Coins "	1114	60	1072	509	19.953	60	19.953	60		
									20.301	95
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion, Say	2322	25	2474	66	2879	59	2865	10		
Foreign Coins "	55736	90	55.501	81	64583	84	64583	84		
									67.463	43
Total deposites									87.765	38

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Silver:					
Half Dollars, Say	134.500	67.250	00		
Quarter Dollars "	58.400	14.600	00		
Dimes "	110.000	11.000	00		
Half Dimes "	119.000	5.950	00		
	421.900			98.800	00
Total Coinage				98.800	00

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office 31st. May 1840.

H. C. Cammack
Treasr.

(Copy)

My dear Sir,

Enclosed I hand you a letter for Dr. Patterson and if you think it not objectionable, please to forward it to him.

My remarks about Dr. Riddle are drawn from me only by a sense of justice due, as I believe to Dr. Patterson and to myself. Having the first recommended him for appointment, I conceive that I am obligated to communicate any disappointment which I have met with subsequent to the nomination.

As I am actuated only by a sense of duty, I trust that there will be no action on what I have written, and for that reason I suggest to you the propriety of my letter being considered private. I do this with more propriety as you have intimated to me your intention of reporting to Dr. Patterson on this subject.

I hope that the particular

circumstances in which I am placed, will be a sufficient apology to you for my communicating with the Director of the Mint on this matter. I beg to assure you that it is far from my wish to be wanting in respect to you, or assume to myself duties that will be so much better performed by you.

Believe me very
Sincerely your friend
(Sgd) Cammack

J. M. Kennedy Esq.
Supt.

June 4 1840.

From
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

June 6.
Rec'd " 18. 1840.

From/
Dr. Jno. L. Riddell.
Melter & Refiner &c.
New Orleans
June 9/40.
Recd. 20th.

Branch Mint, New Orleans 8th June 1840.

Sir,

My incessant devotion to duties in the Mint, has so far prevented me from giving the least attention to Texas plants since I wrote you last. Had I known beforehand how completely my time would be engrossed as Melter & Refiner, I should have declined the office. Nevertheless I feel an honest exultation in the success which has resulted from most of my plans and efforts. For instance:—

I no longer melt silver for ingots in the small 1600 ounce cast-iron pots. Instead thereof I use a cast-iron pot of similar shape containing 15000 ounces. The thickness of metal is two inches. The convex bottom is protected by a basin of wrought iron. The thick convex cast iron cover has a hole towards one side $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, closed as in the small pots, for the purpose of charging the pot and lading out the melted silver. When the metal is fluid and has been well and repeatedly stirred, we pour out an assay ingot, wait ten or fifteen minutes for the title, mend the melt to $\frac{1}{10}$th of a millieme with certainty by adding copper or fine silver; stir again and lade into the moulds. Thus I never fail in a melt by missing the standard; or at least so far I have not, having made six melts, equal to near 80000 ounces of ingots. All things considered I find this plan incomparably better than using the small pots.

Had I not better recover silver from the poorest refuse grains by amalgamation? What think you of the comparative merits of nitric and sulphuric acid, for dissolving silver in the process of parting? Should Mexican bars be refined previous to parting?

The Superintendant of this mint has probably informed you that the coiner and myself entertain conflicting opinions in regard to gold ingots. It is our mutual request that the matter should be submitted to you.

I find that gold from the separating room, unless carefully reboiled with fresh acid, generally contains traces of lead, antimony, or other base metals which render it brittle. This I toughen by remelting, alloying to near standard, stirring, exposing to air, casting on nitre and sometimes sulphur, and skimming off the dross. If the melted metal be poured into rather cool ingot moulds, and thus suddenly chilled from a high temperature, I find the ingots so brittle upon removing them as to be easily broken; but by subsequently annealing them at a dull red heat, they are rendered so tough that they may be bent double and forced everywhere in contact with a sledge-hammer, without breaking or even cracking. The same ingots raised to a yellow heat, or to a temperature approaching the melting point of gold, and then suddenly cooled by being plunged in water or a weak acid liquor, are rendered comparatively brittle. Now the coiner contends that the ingots should be cast with such qualities as to remain tough when thus annealed at any temperature; that is, no matter how highly heated, nor how suddenly cooled.

That gold is rendered brittle by sudden cooling from a high temperature, is, I believe, an admitted physical fact. (Vide Silliman's Chem. ii. p. 350. (0)).

The last two melts of gold only (Nos 13 & 14 I believe) have been cracked in rolling. I have in my vault a rolled ingot of the first of these two melts, which I succeeded in annealing and rolling in the presence of the coiner, without sign of fault, and which now bears the severest trials of toughness. The balance were highly heated and suddenly cooled and cracked the first time passing through the rollers.

If I am wrong in opinion or deficient in knowledge of the matter, I beg as a personal favor, and as a consideration of similarity in our tastes and former pursuits, that you will frankly set me right, and communicate such useful information as your superior knowledge and long experience enable you to do. I will thank you also to refer me to such printed works as contain the relevant information.

Your Melter & Refiner is Dr. McClintock I am told. I am more than half inclined to claim him as an old acquaintance, made in Pittsburgh in the Winter & spring of 1832, when I gave a course of lectures on Chemistry in Lambdin's Museum. At least, I should feel most fortunate, if through your influence I could now establish a correspondence with him; thus profiting by his greater experience in melting and refining.

In conclusion I must allude to a subject rather unpleasant. Contrary to the dictates of my better judgment, but from motives of charity, near the first of April I admitted to a laborer's station and pay in my department, Dr. John McCarty — bred an apotheca[illegible] in Cork, Ireland — more recently a student in our Medical College. He became greatly dissatisfied because I did not find him worthy of promotion. For a few days he took upon himself to promulgate the most slanderous falsehoods in relation to my official doings. He said he wrote a letter to you on the subject. As the slander or libel will undergo a legal investigation, I have to request that you will transmit, to myself or Mr. Kennedy if you prefer it, the original letter, as a copy will not answer.

May not gold ingots be pickled by myself, and not by the coiner previous to being formally delivered to him? I do not exactly understand your instructions in that rea

I copy from my books the amount in ounces of silver ingots, delivered each month this year to the Treasurer. By this you will see we are not retrograding.

Months	Ounces &c
January	37105. 45
February	67762. 70
March	88316. 35
April	106841. 70
May	138949. 25

The amount for May would have been increased to 143 432. 25, had six drafts of approved dollar ingots been received, melted 24th May.

Respectfully Your
Obt Servt
J. L. Riddell.

Dr. R. M. Patterson

the

PAID

11

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia

Mint of the United States,
June 8. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, a box of dies, directed on the inner envelope to the Supt. of the Br. Mint at New Orleans, to be forwarded under your frank as heretofore. This is the last box that will be sent at present. The receipt, at the Department, of three boxes, sent on the 27th, 28th, and 29th ult., has not yet been acknowledged.

R. M. P.
Director

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

June 8. 1840.

June 1840

(Copy)

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans June 9. 1840

Honble Levi Woodbury
Sec^{y} of the Treasury

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a document exhibiting the situation of our Branch Mint, and to call your attention to that part of it which relates to the Government deposite.

In 1838 and '39, before this Mint commenced the coinage of gold, the portion, in silver, of that fund, was, by the payment in silver coin to depositors of gold bullion, reduced to the sum of $50.195,09.

I submit to you whether this amount is not too small to admit of our making payments with that regularity and promptness which can alone secure heavy deposites for silver coinage. We owe now but for two silver deposites made previous to the first of this month, and three small ones only have been made since.

I therefore suggest to you the propriety of adding, to the U. S. Silver deposits in this Branch Mint, from One hundred, to One hundred and fifty thousand dollars. This increase would have the effect, not only of insuring that promptness in our payments which is so very desirable, and of inspiring additional confidence in the Institution, but also, no doubt, of inducing larger importations of bullion, and enabling the Mint to come, in the annual coinage, much nearer to the expectations of its friends. Those expectations cannot I fear, be fully realized, with our present complement of men. The capacity of this Establishment is put down by Mr. Benton at $3.000.000 pr. annum. If I am correctly informed, this amount is not exceeded in the Philadelphia Mint, with the advantages resulting from a Government fund of $500.000, and an allowance of between fifty and sixty workmen. Our public deposite is, as you know, little over one fifth of that amount, and our number of workmen is limited to twenty!

I have the honor
to be
very respectfully
Y.r obed.t Serv.t
sig.d Jo. M. Kennedy
Sup.t

Treasury Department
June 10. 1840.

Sir,

Your letter of the 8th has come to hand. The box of dies referred to has also been received and forwarded to N. Orleans.

The boxes transmitted by you on the 27th 28th & 29th ult. were also duly received and forwarded.

Very Respectfully
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia.

From

Sec. of Treasury.
June 10. 1860
Rec'd " 12. "

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans June 11th 1840

Sir,

I have requested of Mr Woodbury an increase of our Government deposite. As you will, doubtless be consulted before any action is had upon the matter, allow me to solicit your support of my application, and to enclose a copy of my letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, as well as of the document therein mentioned.

Should you be of opinion, that an addition to our present complement of workmen, would confer on our Institution advantages commensurate with the expense attending it, you would also lay us under great obligations to you by advocating it; the additional number to be, of course, determined by yourself.

I am Sir, with great respect
Yr obedt Servt
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqr
Director &c.

P.S. I have just recd. your letter marked "unofficial," and will send you an early reply.

From
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans,
June 11 / 40.
Recd. 23d.

Copy.

Branch Mint New Orleans.

Hon. Levi Woodbury, June 13.d 1840.

Secy of the Treasury.

Sir,

That injustice may not be done to myself, I feel it incumbent on me, to address you at this time.

For some weeks past no gold has been coined in this Mint. The last three melts of Gold ingots have been cracked in the coining department in rolling; — and yet by proper annealing I found no difficulty myself in rolling, successfully, samples from each melt. Knowing, and being now able to establish, that the ingots have all been of good quality, I have made a written request through our Superintendant, to be permitted, to use for an hour the annealing furnace and gold rollers in the coining department, that I may so far prepare the gold ingots of the next melt, by partial rolling before delivery to the Coiner, as to preclude the possibility of their being cracked in subsequent operations, pledging myself to send you my resig-

nation

nation, if I fail in rolling the ingots well. The coiner declines my request.

The matter in its commencement was submitted to Dr. Patterson, whose reply we wait, and whose decision I hope will remove all difficulties.

I should have been loath to trouble you thus, were I not well assured that secret efforts are being made to prejudice my standing with the Government. The inclosed +certificate, with the remarks preceding it, cut from one of our City papers, will give you an idea of some of the groundless measures taken against me. Conscious that I have well and faithfully performed my duties, I have but this single request to make: that if complaint seemingly worthy of your attention, be proffered against me, I may not be condemned unheard, nor without due inquiry. Pardon me for adding that my time for twelve years past has been almost exclusively devoted to Chemistry and the Natural Sciences. In 1836 I was employed to make a geological reconnaissance of Ohio.

For a while I held a professorship in the Cincinnati Medical College; and for four years past have been Professor of Chemistry in the Medical College of Louisiana. For my standing and ability I can, among many, call the following men to vouch: My old preceptor Prof. Amos Eaton, Troy, New York; Prof. B. Silliman, New-Haven— Prof. John Torrey, New York; Prof. I. B. Rogers & Prof. Aikin, Baltimore, Dr. S. G. Morton, Philadelphia— Dr. S P. Hildreth, Marietta, Ohio— Dr. Daniel Drake & Prof. C. W. Short, Louisville, Kentucky: with most of whom I now maintain a correspondence.

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
(Signed) J. L. Riddell,
Melter & Refiner.

× Treasurers certificate as to examination of the vault, &c—

June ~~24~~
13

P. S. — In connection with this subject, it may be proper to mention that I received, a few days ago, a letter from Dr. John MacCarthy, who, it seems, was employed in Dr. Riddell's ~~employ~~department; and who makes a bitter attack upon that officer. As it appeared, however, that Dr. MacCarthy was himself under suspicion, and was greatly irritated by this circumstance, and as you must necessarily have been acquainted with the whole affair, I did not think my interference in the case called for.

Mint U. S.
June 13 /48.

Sir,

From editorial notices in the N. O. Sun of the 30th & 31st ult., and other such sources, I ~~have~~ am pained to hear of evil reports, and suspicions, and investigations going regarding the Melter & Refiner of your Mint. ~~which it~~ I pray you to let me hear from yourself — the only legitimate source to which I can look for information, — the truth as to a matter in which I
so deep an official interest.

&c

R. M. P.
D

In addition to three boxes of dies sent to you
ted in my letter of the 28th ult., we sent, on the 8th inst., a fourth, con-
ining one pair of Quarter Dollar dies.

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

P. P. S. In addition to three boxes of dies sent to you as stated in my letter of the 28th ult., we sent, on the 8th inst., a fourth, containing one pair of Quarter dollar dies.

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

June 13, 1840.

June 1840

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans June 15. 1840

Sir,

In your letter of the 28th ult° you ask for "the exact truth" of the circumstances attending the discharge of Ernst and Lesick - You will find it in the following lines.

Ernst, before he was employed by Dr. Riddell, distinctly understood, and agreed that he was to be taken *on trial*, subject to dismissal, if he did not suit, and, at a salary of $40 pr. month, until such time, as he should be admitted as a regular hand. He had been with us but two weeks, when he went to the Coiner, with many causes of dissatisfaction, among the rest, that he was to receive $40, pr. month, but that in reality, the difference between that amount and $65, at which he was to be put down upon the pay roll, was to go into the pocket of Dr Riddell himself – The Coiner very prudently replied, that these were matters with which he had nothing to do, and that the officer, before whom such complaints should be laid, was the Superintendent – Upon hearing this from Mr Tyler, I sent for Ernst, who repeated his story to me, with this variation, that the $25 pr mo: ~~[illegible]~~ were to be for the benefit of Dr McCarthy (one of the Workmen) instead of the Melter and Refiner – He further assured me that there were two other men in the Mint, viz, this same Mr McCarthy, and a Mr Cahill, (another workman in the Melting department) between whom and Dr Riddell a positive understanding existed, that the latter was to appropriate to himself a part of their wages – I had them both before me. Cahill was much surprised at my communication – He not only denied the fact that he was called upon to corroborate and stated that he had always received every cent of the wages for which he had contracted, but appeared to be mortified

and, in fact expressed himself so, that any one
should for a moment suppose, that he would
submit to any such imposition. He said further
that he had no fault to find with Dr Riddell
who had in every respect, always treated him in a
proper manner — McCarthy also bore testimony
to the correctness of Dr Riddell's conduct to
him. He said he had never heard that he
was to receive any proportion of the wages of
Ernst, but admitted that he had agreed with
Dr R. that fifty cents a day of
what he was himself to get should be
given to a Mr Nixon, (who was employed
in the Assay department) for instruction
recd from him in the separating room. This ar=
=rangement, as you may suppose, I did not
allow to be carried into effect — Of its impropriety
Dr Riddell was very soon convinced & matters
were all set right long before the expiration of the
month, when every man recd the full amount to
which he was entitled —

Two things are in my opinion very clear.
In the first place, it never entered the mind of
Dr Riddell, to make any thing himself out of

the earnings of his men, and in the next, as the plan by which he proposed to himself to remunerate Mason for teaching McCarthy how to separate dry, was above-board, and consequently undisguised, it was contemplated in entire ignorance of its impropriety and without any intent to wrong the Government - I am inclined to think that the dissatisfaction of Ernst originated in the circumstance that his wages were the lowest in the department in which he was employed - The Melter and Refiner (who had also discovered in him a disposition to tattle) having come to the conclusion that he "wd not suit" dismissed him! - I thought he was right - I will relate Mr. Lavich's case in my next;

Very resp. y. obed. Serv.

J. M. Kennedy

R. M. Patterson
Director &c
Pha.

R. M. Patterson Esqre
Director of the Mint of the
U. S.
Philadelphia

NEW ORLEANS
JUN
16
LA.

New Orleans June 15th 1840.

dear Sir

Mr Kennedy applied to the Secretary of the Treasury sometime ago for funds for the Contingent ordinary expenses of his mint - a warrant was sent for 6780 dollars only, and Mr Woodbury stated, in his letter, that the balance then against me, was, including suspended items, 9.390. dollars. No explanation came with the honorable secretary's letter, and I am very much distressed about the matter. - I have paid nothing without a warrant from the Superintendent, and I cannot imagine what has been suspended: ~~and~~ Mr Kennedy has written to know. and, as soon as we hear from there, I may require your kind advice in getting things put straight again, and which, I trust, I will not apply for in vain.

Annexed is a memorandum of moneys received, paid, and due, in this quarter. by which you will see that we have not enough to meet the demands that will be made on us at the end of this month. The distance we are from Washington, the irregularity of the Mails, and the necessary delay in issuing a warrant, require us to apply for money at least five weeks before wanted. and I have consequently usually asked something more than needed in one quarter, so as to pay wages &c for the first month of the ensuing one. I am now at a loss what to do.

I take the liberty of enquiring from you, if the Treasr is not required to pay all demands made on him under a warrant from the superintendent? & does not the warrant of the Superintendent relieve the Treasurer from responsibility?

The number of men employed in this mint now ~~was~~ is as follows

Laborers —— 20.
Night Guards —— 4.
Porter & door keeper —— 2.
To saw wood, carry coal &c —— 1.

The law permits 20 laborers, but I understand the additional number has been sanctioned at Washington to be charged for under the head of Contingencies.

I assure you, my dear Sir, that I am most anxious to keep my accounts in perfect order. & wait with great impatience to hear what is suspended.

I will be very much obliged to you if you will write to me with any suggestions that you think will be useful. I am with assurances of respect and esteem, yours faithfully.

H. Cammack

To Dr
R. M. Patterson

Amount balance in my hands on 31 March 1840 ——		$6295.70
Less this sum in hands of Dr Patterson		616.53
		5679.17
~~paid~~ Amount Treasury draft ——		6780.-
		12459.17

Paid

Contingent expences, including 2000 bls Coal	2312.14	
Thomas Slidell, Commissioner —	1800.	
Wag[illegible] to laborers in April —	1631.12	
do in May, Night Gds &c —	2218.61	
Building & Machinery ——	346.25	= 7508.12
Leaving available		$4951.05

To be paid at the end of this month.

Salaries of officers & Clerks —	3225.
Wages, night watch &c June —	2218.61
Bills against the mint already presented ——	2410.26
	$7953.87

From/ H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
June 15.
Rec'd " 27. 1840.

Dr R. M. Patterson
U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

ORLEANS

From/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
June 15
Rec'd " 27. 1840.

Mint U. S.
June 16 / 48.

Sir,

I have received New Orleans papers to-day, of the 1st & 2d inst., sent, I presume, ~~by yourself or Mr. Cammack~~, from your Mint, and containing Mr. Cammack's certificate regarding Dr. Riddell's account as Melter & Refiner. This is well. But I am also informed, indirectly, through the correspondence of a gentleman not connected with the Mint, of an outrage subsequently committed, and in which Dr. Riddell and one of your workmen—Nixon—were parties. The story, as related, is that one of Dr. Riddell's men,—McCarthy,—having taken offence at his principal, had made complaints which gave rise to the investigation into Dr. Riddell's affairs; and that, in revenge for this conduct, Dr. Riddell, accompanied by his brother & Nixon, armed with clubs, & daggers or Bowie knives, ~~and had attacked~~ had gone to McCarthy's chamber, and beaten him severely. The end of the story is that Dr. Riddell, and his brother, and Mr. Nixon, had been bound over to the criminal court for this assault, and that the operations of the Mint were suspended.

I hope that this shocking report is not true, or, at least, that it is exaggerated. It can hardly be possible that I should not have your ~~report~~ representations of the matter before this letter reaches you; but, in any event, I ~~shall~~ am most anxious to hear the truth, and to hear it from you. It is a case that deeply concerns you, for it involves the ~~character~~ reputation of an institution under your immediate charge. The practice of a resort to brute force in support of private character must be considered by all moralists as equally wicked and absurd; what terms then can be used, when the same resort is made for the support of public character, and is applied to a subaltern? I know not what code can justify it.

R. M. P.

P. S. Your report for last month is duly received

To Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq
Sup. Br. Mint,
N. O.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

June 16. 1840.

Mint U. S.
June 18/40.

Sir,

I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., giving me information, in an authentic form, which my late correspondence will have shown you that I was seeking with great anxiety. I do not hesitate to say that I most heartily disapprove of Dr. Riddell's conduct in the affair of Dr. McCarthy, and that I shall deem it my duty to represent it to the ~~Department~~ government. It is for the President to determine what course to take in the case, and it is ~~very~~ possible that it may not lead to the removal of the officer in question; but if it should, it will be of the greatest importance that no time should be lost in finding a successor, and I deem it right, therefore, to ask you to ~~let~~ tell me ~~me know~~, in confidence, if you know of any individual competent to fill the station. A practical acquaintance with the business is not to be expected, but an acquaintance with Chemistry is. I should think that any gentleman who has had a good ~~chemi~~ medical education might soon ~~become~~ acquire~~d with~~ the

~~chiefly business~~ practical knowledge ~~[illegible]~~ necessary. Our present Melter & Refiner here had no other ground to build upon, and he became, in a short time, a competent and ~~excellent~~ effective officer. I consider it of great importance that all persons to be attached to your Mint should be acclimated to New Orleans, and this must, of course, be looked to if a new appointment is to be made.

I am assured, both by our Old and by our present Coiner, that there is no difficulty whatever in the annealing of gold. There is not the same ~~danger of~~ inconvenience from overheating, which occurs in silver. If the gold ingots ~~could made~~ to which you refer could not be rolled without cracking, the fault must have been in the preparation of the metal by the Melter, and not in the annealing by the Coiner. I should deem it quite unnecessary to send a specimen ingot here; but, if the parties desire it, I do not object to this course.

Please to inform Mr. Cammack that I will write tomorrow, on the subject of his letter.

R. M. P.
D

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint
New Orleans.

Co/

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint.
New Orleans.

June 18/40.

I had recd. your letter of the 28th ulto.
did so then, merely to justify himself
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Lerick has, in my opinion
no cause to complain - If that
"insinuation" had been made known
to me at the time the words con=
=veying it were uttered, I think it
very probable that his services
would have been dispensed with altogether.

I am with great respect, Sir,
Yr. obedt. Servt.

J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

P.S. We have recd.

1 box contg. 1 pr. of dime, and 1 pr. of dime dies
1 do - contg. 1 pr. of dollar dies
1 do - contg. 1 pr. of Eagle and 1 pr. of eagle dies
1 do - contg. 1 pr. of dollar dies -

From Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint
New Orleans.
June 19. } 1840.
Rec'd " 30. }

R. M. Patterson Esquire
Director of the Mint of the
U. S. Philadelphia

NEW ORLEANS JUN 20

the first vacancy in his department — This he was led to do for the following reasons, in addition to Mr Levick's having hinted that he would prefer working in that department — Levick's complaints about his wages, and his threats to leave, until they were raised, were frequent — He had been sometimes "a little careless in regard to bullion" and had "refused to become responsible for deposites placed in his hands to melt". On one occasion Dr Riddell thought the wastage (after a melt of gold) somewhat greater than it should have been, and mentioned it to him — His reply was, that he would be of that opinion too, if he did not think "that Dr Riddell knew what had become of the gold". It was, (in the words of the Melter & Refiner) that "insolent insinuation" that forced him to say to Levick that he might consider himself dismissed — He (Levick) never said a word to me on the subject. His conduct, (from good feelings towards him) Dr Riddell had not thought it worth while to communicate to me, until after

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans June 19. 1840

Sir,

I must apologize for the time that has intervened, between this letter and that of the 15th inst. - Private affairs, of my own, requiring my undivided attention have made it longer than it should have been. I ~~gave~~ hastened to give you the circumstances attending the discharge of Ernst, because he had made "accusations of a very grave character against Dr Riddell" about which I was persuaded you wished to be soon satisfied -

Against Dr Riddell Mr Lerick, you say "makes no accusation or complaint". This is not surprising - I do not see how, under the facts of the case as reported to me by Dr R/ it could have been otherwise - Mr Lerick has never been "discharged from our Mint". He has been with the Coiner, ever since he left the Melting department. Some time previous to that, Dr Riddell had made an arrangement with Mr Tyler, by which he was to take the first vacancy in his department – This he was led to do for the following reasons, in addition to Mr. Lavick's having hinted that he would prefer working in that department – Lavick's complaints about his wages, and his threats to leave, unless they were raised, were frequent. He had been sometimes "a little careless in regard to bullion" and had "refused to become responsible for deposites placed in his hands to melt". On one occasion Dr. Riddell thought the wastage (after a melt of gold) somewhat greater than it should have been, and mentioned it to him – His reply was, that he would be of that opinion too, if he did not think "that Dr. Riddell knew what had become of the gold". It was, (in the words of the Melter & Refiner) "that insolent insinuation that forced him to say to Lavick that he might consider himself dismissed – He (Lavick) never said a word to me on the subject. His conduct, (from good feelings towards him) Dr. Riddell had not thought it worth while to communicate to me, until after

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I am with great respect, Sir,
Yr. obedt. Servt.
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

P.S. We have recd.

1 box contd. 1 pr. of dime, and 1 pr. of dime dies
1 do - contd. 1 pr. of dollar dies
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From Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint
New Orleans.
June 19. }
Rec'd " 30. } 1840.

NEW ORLEANS
JUN
20

R. M. Patterson Esquire
Director of the Mint of the
U. S.
Philadelphia

Mint of the United States.
June 19 / 40.

Sir,

I feel it my duty to send you the enclosed copies of a correspondence regarding Dr. J. L. Riddell, the present Melter & Refiner of the Branch Mint at New Orleans. You will see from it that my own information is as yet imperfect, yet it is sufficient to ~~show~~ convince me that the choice of Dr. Riddell was an unfortunate one, notwithstanding his character as a scientific man, and the strong recommendations in his favor. He has quarrelled with and discharged his workmen, he has lost the regard of his fellow-officers, and he is giving bad ingots to the Coiner, and does not seem able to make them better. Lastly comes the affair with one of his dismissed hands, — McCarthy — which has brought disgrace upon the Mint, and exposed him, and two of his men whom he had with him, to a criminal trial.

You will, I presume, judge it proper to lay this matter before the President.

R. M. P.
Dr

To Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury.

To/
Sec. of Treasury,

June 19. 1840.

(No. 1.)

(Copy)

Coiners Office Branch Mint
New Orleans June 23d 1840

To/ Joseph M Kenedey Esq.
Supt. U.S. Br. Mint

Dear Sir

In answer to your letter of Saturday last, I am sorry to say that the gold ingots, will not work in the ordinary way, At the time of receiving the ingots I was informed, by the M & R. that they had been annealed & hammered, and afterwards annealed & pickled by himself, and that they were ready for rolling, upon this authority I thought I would roll some of them without first annealing them myself, but in attempting to straighten them from the crooks they had received in hammering, one ingot ~~was~~ was accidentally broken, which led me to suppose the others were equally brittle. I then tried them by striking across the corner of the anvil, and some of them broke with almost the brittleness of glass. I then took 5 ingots indiscriminately from the lot, and passed them 6 times through the rolls giving them one 8th of a turn of the keys at each time stretching them in length about 2 inches in all, at the very first time passing them through, the cracks could be seen very plain, which continued opening wider untill the 6th time, when they had not lengthed more than 2 inches (notwithstanding the Director informs that they should be successively rolled to the length of 2 feet 4 or 5 inches, before annealing the second time) four or five more were then rolled in your presence, with the same result, after which I recieved your note above mentioned - Not feeling satisfied to report upon them without trying some of my own annealing, I stated the same to you, and recieved in answer your request to make further trial - I then took 3 ingots and marked them Nos 1, 2 & 3 which I annealed and rolled as follows, No 1 not hammered annealed at nearly red - dipped in pickle, passed 11 times through the rolls, giving in all half a turn of the keys, and drawing about 2 inches in length - cracked on the surface - annealed again at the same heat pickled - Rolled 4 times through, drawn 1 inch cracked too bad to finish, No 2 hammered by Mr R annealed at lowest red heat ~~as at first~~ rolled same as No, pickled - rolled again 4 times drawn 1 inch cracked same as No 1 - No 3 hammered by my foreman, annealed at cherry red, pickled, and rolled same as No 1 & 2 annealed at the same heat as at first, pickled - rolled 4 times, cracked the same as Nos 1 & 2 - rolled 6 times cracked more at each time

I then took 4 ingots and rolled them to the usual length of 30 inches, at which length the cracks on the sides had nearly disappeared or drawn over each other, but the edges were quite rough - I then selected ~~of~~ the worst and the best of the four, and annealed them at a moderate heat then rolled ~~them~~ to the proper length for drawing, the worst is entirely unfit for coins, the best would be subject to great ~~[illegible]~~ waste in drawing, and if it could be drawn to the proper weight many of the pieces would be imperfect - I wish you to examine the pieces with which the experiments were made; and if convenient I should like you to witness some of the experiments, as above - If then you should request me to make as much of it as possible into coins, I will cheerfully do so notwithstanding the great waste which must necessarily occur

Very Respectfully
Your Faithful Servant
Signed - P. B. Tyler
Coiner.

4

[redacted]

June 23

No. 1

Treasury Department
June 24. 1840.

Sir

I transmit enclosed a copy of a letter received from Dr. Riddell the Melter & Refiner at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans to which I invite your attention -

Dr. Riddell has been called on by the Department for explanation of the charges &c in the former communications.

Very Respy
Yrs Obedt. Servt
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Philadelphia.

From/

Sec. of Treasury.

June 24.

Rec'd " 27. 1840

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans June 24. 1840

Sir,

In addition to the criminal prosecution which has been commenced against Dr. Riddell by MacCarthy, the latter has also instituted a civil suit against him, in which he lays his damages at $5,000. The Courts being on the eve of adjourning until November next, this civil suit cannot be tried for seven or eight months. Should it then be taken to the Supreme Court, more than twelve months must elapse before it can be finally passed upon. The trial of the criminal case is fixed for to morrow, but the judge has signified his determination, should Dr. Riddell be convicted, not to pass sentence upon him until after the judgment will have been rendered in the action for damages.

In my letter to you in which I mentioned the difficulty between Dr. R. and MacCarthy (fearing that it might lead to a serious interruption of our operations) I stated that I would immediately acquaint you with the result of the trial for Assault & Battery. It is therefore proper, that I should now let you know that according to the present aspect of the matter its effect upon our Mint (if any it should have) will in all probability be remote.

I am very respectfully
Sir,
Your obed^t Servant

R. M. Patterson Esqr
Director &c

J M Kennedy
Sup^t

P. S. Allow me to correct an error - The Melt, which led to the dismissal of Levick from the Melting Department, was of Silver and not gold

From/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
June 24.
Rec'd July - 6. 1840.

July 1840

R. M. Patterson Esquire
Director of the Mint of the U.S.
Philadelphia

Treasury Department
June 27. 1840.

Sir,

I transmit, herewith, for your examination a statement of the expenditures by Mr. Forstall and Mr. Cammack out of the appropriations made for the Building and Machinery for the Branch Mint at N. Orleans. These accounts having been settled by the proper accounting Officers of the Department and not in this office, are now, for the first time, brought to my notice.

I will thank you to inform me whether the outhouses, which have cost very large sums were built under your direction or with your sanction, and if not, by whose direction they were erected and of what they consist.

There are, also, some heavy charges for furniture - Marble Mantels, &c I will thank you to state whether these expenditures were authorised by you - and whether all or how many officers of the Mint reside in the buildings

Very Respectfully
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of Mint _ Philad^{a}

From

Sec. of Treasury.
June 27.
Rec'd " 29. 1840.

10

Mint of the United States.
June 27th, 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., explaining the circumstances of Ernst's discharge. It is a satisfaction to find that they correspond exactly with what I had supposed to be the true story, and had so stated in my letter making the inquiry. ~~I~~ In fact, I never doubted the propriety of ~~Ernst's~~ ~~discharge~~ dismissal. — I have had ~~two~~ some doubts as to Levick, but I suppose your ~~prof~~ promised letter will remove them. Had not his ~~removal~~ discharge some connexion with a desire to make room for ~~another~~ Dr. Riddell's brother, and has it not also been the immediate cause of the defect in the gold ingots?

I have received from the Secretary of the Treasury, a copy of a letter to him, of the 13th inst., from Dr. Riddell, on the subject of these gold ingots. It is a most extraordinary thing that a doubt should exist as to the fact whether these ingots ~~were~~ are sufficiently ductile for the operations of the Coiner. We cannot understand, here, how a dispute can exist on so plain a ~~f~~ matter. ~~It is not Ingots~~ It may be possible to roll down ingots, and yet they may not be possessed of that degree of ductility which may be fairly required by the Coiner. If they are defective, I think it very improbable, as I have already told you, that the defect arises from the annealing; while, on the other hand, it is by no means an easy matter to make ductile alloys of gold. The process followed by us, was explained in a communication formerly ~~made~~ sent to your Mint, and which has, I presume, come into the hands of Dr. Riddell; but I will give you a general view of it, as ~~they~~ my doing so may enable you to form a better judgment as to the merits of this dispute.

You have gold, either fine or of high quality, and which may be perfectly ductile, and you are to bring it down to standard by adding copper. Now it is a general rule that this cannot be done directly, without making a brittle mass. ~~You~~ We have, therefore, to prepare an alloy, — called toughened gold, — made by adding to gold an ~~combining with gold, (fine or otherwise,)~~ an excess of copper, and then melting it down, with successive doses of nitre, so as to remove portions of the copper and other oxidable metals, and produce a mass, which will vary in fineness, but which is best at about 700 to 750. This alloy is hard and rings like bell-metal, — the ringing being the test of goodness used at the Mint. The toughening is then assayed, and the proper proportion melted down with the fine gold, to make the standard metal required.

Now if Dr. Riddell has simply failed in making ductile standard ingots, there ought not, considering his want of experience, to be any great astonishment expressed, or any great blame ~~to be~~ attached to him. The difficulty ~~could~~ ~~can~~ could have been removed by greater care, or, if the true process was not known to him, by asking information from this Mint. I would not, for a moment, think of impeaching an officer, placed in the circumstances of Dr. Riddell, on such a complaint as this. But, if the ingots are really unfit for the Coinage, and Dr. Riddell refuses to change them, and insists that the Coiner is not competent to judge of them, then he must bear the blame; ~~if they are fit for use~~ Surely you can judge of this matter; ~~If, however, you have a difficulty to do so, the Coiner is to blame.~~ ~~Perhaps, after all,~~ the best way to settle this point ~~will~~ may be to send an ingot to us, that has been refused by the Coiner and approved by the Melter.

In my view of Dr. Riddell's case, the worst feature in it is the outrage committed on McCarthy. ~~When~~ ~~I confess~~ this affair was ~~first~~ brought to my attention, – perhaps somewhat exaggerated, – it had the effect of changing my ~~own~~ opinion of Dr. Riddell's character. I deemed it my duty to ~~lay the~~ present the case to the government, and, in doing so, also mention the charge as to the ingots, on which, however, I do not ~~place the same~~ lay great force; unless it may be shown that the ingots being bad, he has refused to amend them.

I have no objection to your showing this letter to Dr. Riddell.

R. M. P.
Dr

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

U. S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans June 28. 1840

Sir,

It is matter of regret to me that the idea of the *possibility* of my neglecting to lay before you any information concerning us that you ought to possess, should ever have been admitted into your mind. It may sometimes have happened to me to be a little tardy, but it has generally been under circumstances, which would, I think, had you been acquainted with them, have induced you to hold me excusable. My letter of the 5th inst in which I represented the affair between Dr. Riddell and MacCarthy, must have reached you very shortly after you had written yours of the 16th which I recd yesterday. The operations of the Mint have *not* been suspended. The trial took place on the day stated in my last. The jury found a verdict of guilty against the three, but recommended *Nixon* to the clemency of the Judge, who sentenced him to pay costs, and nothing more. Dr. Ridd and his brother have given bond for their appea=ance to hear *their* sentence, after the terminat of the civil suit which I have already had occasion to mention to you =

I am extremely anxious to hear from you in relation to the gold - It was my intention at first, without waiting for that, to have called the Officers of the Mint together, and upon suggestions made by any of them during the operations, to have tried the possibility of working enough of it to pay off our gold debt which was small. I have been induced for two reasons to change my mind and stand entirely by your decision -

First, Upon inquiry at the Treasurer's office I learned that all our gold certificates were held by the Bank of Louisiana, of which Mr. Cammack is a Director and was informed by that gentleman that he was in no hurry for payment - We had then no *immediate* use for gold coins.

Secondly, I found, that there would have been a total absence of that spirit in which I had hoped our experiments would have been conducted. The matter had already been left to you, by whose decision alone I was satisfied that both parties would be content to abide, and I was unwilling to contribute knowingly, on either side, to an aggravation of feelings which, for the sake of the Mint should never have arisen, and were growing stronger every day — I hope you will think I have acted prudently — Dr. Riddell insists as strongly as ever that *he* can work the gold, and complains of not having had an "opportunity" of establishing the fact, and relieving his official credit! I have told him that he is not both *Melter* and *Coiner*, that it is his business to deliver such gold as Mr. Tyler can coin according to the instructions and that should you not furnish me with a test by which I can myself judge of the toughness and malleability of his ingots we will send you one either from the last or any other Melt returned by the Coiner as unfit for coinage, and that thus he will have ample justice — I am with great respect

Sir

Your obedt. faithful
Servant
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

P.S. Our last gold depositor has requested a return of his deposite, and I have sanctioned it -

I cannot disguise the fact that we do not get along as harmoniously as formerly - Our Mint appears to be _fated_ to breed (without great interruption) within its walls, feelings productive of any thing but tranquility and peace - Should the settlement of this gold question not bring with it such a change as will make _my_ office less disagreeable to me, than for some time, it has been, much as I would regret to dissever official relations with one by whom I have uniformly been so kindly treated, my only alternative will be to resign it.

Plu drain of the

2.5 : 120 :: x : 3
3
7.5 / 120.0 (16
75
450
450

120

128 / 7.5 X
62.5

3 : 2.5 :: 120 : x
120
3 / 300.0
100.

~~2.1~~
~~120~~
~~2520~~

21 / 300.0 (14 3
21
90
84
60

1.35 / 300.00 (236
260
400
405

1.87 / 300.00 (16
187
1130
1122
80

1.55 / 300.00 (193
155
1450
1395
550

From/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

June 28. } 1840.
Rec'd July 9. }

New Orleans June 28th 1840

My dear Sir

I wrote to you this morning and have since thought it proper to communicate to you extract from a letter which I have received from Mr Slidell dated at Washington - it is as follows

> "I find that strong efforts have been made to prejudice
> "You here, but that no effect has been produced,
> "except upon our senators especially Mouton. -
> "I am satisfied, from what fell from Mouton,
> "that the chief source of the representations (which
> "by the by I believe are exclusively confined
> "to the charge that you are a violent whig &
> "a bitter enemy of the administration) made
> "against you is some person or persons about
> "the mint. I do not anticipate any difficulty &c"

This Secret accuser has done me great injustice, because he has stated that which is not true - and I advise you of this to put you on your guard against any reports that may reach you, and to enable you to answer any enquiries that may be made from Washington.

It seems that some restless Spirit haunts the walls of this mint, which, while it be not layed, will never permit peace and harmony to exist within them.

I am, with great respect,
Your faithfull & obt Servant
H. Cammack

To
Dr R. M. Patterson

From/ H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

June 28. } 1840.
Rec'd July 10. }

New Orleans June 28. 1840

My dear Sir

I received yesterday a letter from my friend Mr Slidell who was at Washington City, in which he says the Comptroller had informed him that the delay in stating my accounts proceeded solely from the irregularities in the accounts of Mr Forstall, the late Treasurer, but that it will very soon be regulated.

I feel much relieved by this information and hasten to advise you of it.

I can close this quarter's accounts without any more funds by leaving some of the claims over for awhile, and with the quarterly accounts I will get Mr Kennedy to send a requisition for more funds.

Our Coinage for this month will be less, in amount, than we anticipated owing to the fact that we have done nothing yet in Gold.

I am, with great respect
Your faithful Servant
A. C. Cammack

To R. M. Patterson Esq

From/ H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint
New Orleans.
June 28.
Recd. July 9. 1840.

New Orleans June 28. 1840.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Kennedy shewed me yesterday a letter received from you, written in consequence of an exagerated report of an assault on John MaCarty having indirectly reached your ears. The particulars – MaCarty being at the time employed in the Mint, was brutally assaulted with clubs, bowie knives &c, and that the mint had stopped in consequence of the offending party's having been bound over to court. I quote from memory, and may be partly incorrect.

In consequence of the inquiries you make of Mr. Kennedy, I deem it my duty, though unasked, to lay the leading circumstances before you.

I apprized you in my last, that in consequence of his persevering importunity, and from charitable considerations, I had admitted MaCarty to a laborer's station in my department. He became deeply disaffected because I found him unworthy of promotion, and implicated himself and others in plots to injure me. Having been a student of our Medical College, I was loath to discharge him, but earnestly and repeatedly advised him to find some other employment. He was well aware I had lost confidence in him. On the 26th of May at noon, refusing to file a saw, he quit work, informing me that he no longer considered himself as belonging to my department.

He then set about publishing in the community the vilest slander he could invent. He made statements to my securities, which determined me to expose my vaults to inspection. He then caused the publication in the Sun Newspaper which you have seen, heading it "*Rather suspicious alias Melting & Refining*." That his conduct was insupportable and aggravating in the extreme, will appear by the following written statement of Dr. James Jones, one of my securities — a gentleman of high standing. Immediately after leaving the mint, Macarty called on him and assured him

"that there was and would be proved to be, great losses, by reason of the incompetency and dishonesty of the Melter and Refiner — that he never made a melt without losing several per cent of metal; and that he had appropriated to his private use and sold at a premium, a large amount of the coin and bullion intrusted to his charge. In fine, that said Riddell was a defaulter, a thief — incompetent and a coward: — that he had challenged said Riddell to his face, and made his ears hang like a dogs: And that it was his intention to use every means in his power, to disgrace and drive him out of New Orleans. That it was a fact well known to him that said Riddell had stolen ashes &c, containing a valuable amount of silver, belonging to the estate of Maxwell: And that he also knew that said Riddell had killed his wife by bad treatment, and attempted to defraud and cheat his minor brother-in-law of his property."

It is perhaps to be regretted, but public opinion in this climate, as you are doubtless aware, sanctions, and under similar circumstances requires, a resort to personal chastisement for slanders like the above, so base, so palpable, and so utterly unfounded in truth. McCarty was no longer connected with the mint. The Medical College of whose faculty I am a member, had conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine upon him, which alone gave him a claim to respectability. My friends, among whom were Messrs Kennedy and Cammack, warmly urged me to chastise him; and this I did on the piazza of his boarding house, having in company with me two individuals who took no part, to mark that I neither used nor displayed any weapon more formidable than my flat hand. This was on the first of June. When I had thus rebuked the slanderer, my conduct was cordially approved by Messrs Kennedy, Cammack, Hort and all who knew the circumstances and the tone of public feeling. It is true, at McCarty's complaint I have since been convicted in the Criminal court of assault & battery, and am defendant in a civil action for damages based on the same. In the civil action a reconvention for the slander will be allowed; and mitigating testimony will be received in the Criminal court, where the judge declines pronouncing sentence, until after the civil action shall have been decided, — say perhaps two years hence. The Judge of the Criminal court assures me, that as my presence is indispensable at the mint, if after he shall have heard the mitigating testimony concerning the slander which led to the assault, he shall then find it his duty to visit me with a severe sentence, he will do so by a fine instead of imprisonment.

In conclusion then, let me remind you that the assault did not take place in the mint; — that Macarty at the time was disconnected from the mint. — that my provocation was beyond human endurance, — that my friends and impartial persons sustain me in what, under the excitement of the moment I did, — and that great allowance must be made in estimating a summary act, required by the tone of public feeling in a community. If under under the excitement of deep injury, I transgressed the strict law of the land, I hold myself amenable to that law, and shall abide its penalty.

With respect your
Obt Servt.
J. L. Riddell

PAID

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia

Dr. R. M. Patterson.

From/
Dr. J. L. Riddell,
Meltr. & Ref. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

June 28. } 1840.
Rec'd July 10. }

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

June 27. 1840.

Mint U.S.
June 30 / 40.

Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst. — The explanation with regard to Levick's discharge from Dr. Riddell's department is satisfactory. No officer could permit an insolent insinuation to be made against him, and Dr. Riddell's conduct ~~seems to have~~ has showed great forbearance. — In my letter of the 27th, I ask ~~some questions~~ whether the discharge of Levick had any connexion with a desire to make place for Dr. Riddell's brother. It may be proper now to say, that the ~~unfounded~~ doubt expressed in this question, and which now appears to be unfounded, was not suggested by any insinuation made from New Orleans.

A correspondence which I have had with the Secretary of the Treasury shows that great discontent is felt at Washington at ~~some of~~ the amount, and at some of the items, of expenditures, under the appropriations for establishing your Mint. Among the charges, those for out-houses are very great. I am asked what these out-houses are, but am unable to answer. Mantels &c also play a large part in the expenditures, ~~and~~ so much so as to have attracted particular attention. The erection of the buildings and the procuring of furniture did not fall under my control, and I have therefore been unable to give satisfactory answers to the Secretary's questions. I presume ~~therefore~~ that you will be called upon, though but little of the extravagance complained of can have occurred under your regime.

R. M. P.

D

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

June 30. 1840.

Copy.

Dr. The United States, for the Building & Machinery of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, as paid to the following persons from the 1st October to the 31st December 1839 inclusive, in pursuance of Warrants of the Superintendent of the marginal dates and numbers, viz;

1839		No of Warrt.				No. of Bills	Dolls	cts
Dec	7	234	To George Tore	for carpenter's work &c		1	378	–
	18	242	J. Q. Ferguson	" work done per bill		2	189	–
	31	246	Alex. Logan	" hanging bells		3	72	–
		255	Leeds & Co	" Sundries for Coining dept.		4	20	48
		256	J Kiderlen	" paper hanging &c		5	119	–
		257	A. Siebrecht	" do	do	6	43	50
		259	G. Holley	" lumber & Carpenter's work		7	45	–
		260	J. Prager	" lumber		8	31	71
		261	E. Blanc	" 3000 Bricks		9	39	–
		262	B. Baggett	" painting Treasurer's residence		10	242	25
		265	Walsh & Lyall	" repairing roofs &c		11	71	75
		268	Allen & Hill	" locks for the vaults &c		12	326	–
		272	Benj. F. Fox	" Carpenter's work		13	125	–
		275	B Baggett	" painting Offices &c		14	211	25
							$1.913	94

Branch Mint of the United States,
New Orleans Treasurer's Office
31st December 1839.

H. Cammack
Treasurer

Copy.

Dr. The United States for the Buildings & Machinery of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, as paid to the following persons, from 1st January to the 31st March 1840, inclusive, in pursuance of Warrants of the Superintendent, of the Marginal dates and numbers, viz;

1840		No. of Warrant			No. of Bills	Dolls	Cts
Jany	28	6	To John Ferguson	for Carpenter's work &c	1	166	50
Feby	5	12	Stroud & Rankin	″ 1 Mantle Piece Grate with roman cement &c	2	142	37
	″	13	P. Q. McCabe	″ Mason's work &c	3	148	–
	13	24	John Munro	″ repairing Qr dollar Press	4	107	25
	″	25	Jams Stitt	″ refitting fly wheel &c	5	99	–
March	7	43	John Munro	″ refitting Qr dollar press	6	97	50
	″	44	Jams Stitt	″ do do do	7	90	–
	9	47	John B. Walsh	″ bill of Solder &c	8	129	50
						$ 980	12

Branch Mint of the United States
New Orleans, Treasurer's Office
March 31st 1840.

McCammack
Treasurer

Copy.

Dr. The United States, for the Building & machinery of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, as paid to the following persons, from the 1st of April to the 30th of June 1840, inclusive, in pursuance of warrants of the Superintendent of the marginal dates & numbers, viz:

1840		No.			
April	14	67	To John Monro	for completing repairs at Press ¼ Dll	146 25
June	19	99	" Peter Reilly	" mason work at annealing furnace	97 –
	"	100	" P. Q. McCabe	" do do do do	116 –
	30	110	" Enos E. Cook	" Iron work for do do	69 75
	"	111	" James Pearson	" do for do do	113 75
					$ 542 75

Branch Mint United States
New Orleans, Treasurer's Office,
June 30th, 1840.

H C Cammack
Treasu

1,913.94
980.12
542.75
3,436.81

These are the accounts refered to in my letter to You of yesterday.

14 June 1840
H.C.C.

From/
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
July 14.
Rec'd " 27. 1860.

Branch Mint New Orleans.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

ORLEANS
JUL 14

U. S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans July 1. 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose our Statement for June -

Your letter of the 18th: ulto: has been recd: -
I will reply to it to-morrow.

Very respectfully
Yr obedt: Servt
J. M. Kennedy
Supt:

R. M. Patterson Esqre
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Phila:

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the Month of June 1840

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight after melting Ounces	du	Standard Weight Ounces	du	Value before deductions Dollars	cts	Value after deductions Dollars	cts	Total Value before deductions Dollars	cts
Gold:										
No deposites of Gold have been received this Month										
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion, say	699	05	764	29	889	35	887	06		
Foreign Coins "	75658	85	75.422	67	87.764	41	87.764	41		
									88.653	76
Total deposites									88.653	76

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value Dollars	cts	Total Value Dollars	cts
Gold:					
No Gold Coins have been coined this Month					
Silver:					
Half Dollars, say	83.600	41.800	00		
Quarter Dollars, "	120.800	30.200	00		
Dimes "	190.000	19.000	00		
	394.400			91.000	00
Total Coinage				91.000	00

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, June 30th 1840

H. Cammack
Treasurer

(Copy)

Dr. The United States, in account with Horace C. Cammack, Treasurer of the Branch Mint, New Orleans, his account of the ordinary receipts and expenditures, for the quarter ending the 30th. of June 1840. Cr

1840			Dollars	cts	1840			Dolls	cts
June	30	To amount paid from the 1st. of April to this date, inclusive, for the incidental & contingent expenses & repairs of the Mint, as per Statement and Warrants marked D 1.	5736	85	March	31	By Balance remaining in the Treasurer's hands as per account rendered to this date	6295	70
"	"	" amount paid from the 1st. of April to this date, inclusive, for the Buildings & Machinery of the Mint, as per Statement and Warrants marked D. 2.	542	75	June	10	" Amount of Draft of the Treasurer of the U. States No. 4675. for the Salaries of the Officers and Clerks, and Wages of Laborers for the quarter ending 30th. June	6780	00
"	"	" Amount paid for Wages of Laborers employed in the Mint, as per Statement and Warrants marked D 3.	4927	12	"	30	" Balance to new account	1356	02
"	"	" Amount paid for the Salaries of the Officers & Clerks of the Mint, for the quarter ending this day, as per Statement and Warrant marked D 4.	3225	00					
			14431	72				14431	72

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, June 30th 1840

H. C. Cammack
Treasurer.

From/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

July 1.
Recd " 13. 1840.

(Report for June.)

NEW ORLEANS - 1840 (CONT.)

Mint U. S.
July 6/40.

Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 24th ult., giving me information as to the present state of the criminal and civil actions brought against Dr. Riddell. It is lamentable that any circumstances should have occurred among you to render such prosecutions possible.

On the 20th ult., I received a letter from Dr. Riddell, which I have failed to answer, because I ~~was so~~ judged it more proper, ~~to~~ under the peculiar circumstances in which he is now placed, to correspond with you. My prepossessions were much in favor of ~~Dr. Riddell~~ this officer, and I am, on that account, the more distressed at the scandal which he has drawn upon himself and the mint. If, in the affair with MacCarthy, he had acted ~~as was~~ only officially, — as was both his policy and his duty, — he would not now be exposed to these ~~lamentable~~ unhappy prosecutions.

~~In~~ Dr. Riddell's ~~letter, he~~ refers to a letter ~~mentions that~~ that Dr. MacCarthy ~~had said that he~~ had written ~~a letter~~ to me, ~~with regard to him~~, and ~~he~~ adds — "as this slander or libel will undergo a legal investigation, I have to request that you will transmit to myself, or Mr. Kennedy if you prefer it, the original letter, as a copy will not answer. — I have already told you that I did receive such a letter, and I told you, at the same time, that I did not think my interference in the case called for, because "it appeared that Dr. MacCarthy was himself under suspicion, and was greatly irritated by this circumstance, and because you must necessarily be acquainted with the whole affair." — In fact, I should never have noticed the letter of MacCarthy at all, if it had not been for rumors reaching me from other sources, and this must be evident to you from my letter of the 13th ult. ~~It is clear then that Dr. MacCarthy's attack upon accusations,~~ ~~communication to me did not do an injury to Dr. Riddell,~~ Now as to the request that I will send Dr. MacCarthy's private letter ~~to see~~ to be used in a trial for slander, I must decline it. I should consider such a course a breach of confidence; and it would be excessively annoying to me to have seen my correspondence introduced into such an affair.

Dr. Riddell, in his letter, asks some questions ~~which it is proper that I should~~ to which I will beg you to convey to him

~~answer the~~ my answers.—

He asks, first, if ~~he~~ "he had not better recover silver from the poorest refuse grains by amalgamation."— I answer that I cannot recommend this process. After the usual mint processes are exhausted, it is best to sell the ~~sweep~~ remaining sweep to the smelters. The operators at New York take our sweep at our own valuation by assay, deduct 6½ to 7 per cent. for their work, and pay the amount on the delivery of the sweep.

He asks, secondly, "what I think of the comparative merits of nitric and sulphuric acid for dissolving silver in the process of parting."— On the large scale, where the platina vessels and other apparatus can be afforded, the sulphuric acid process is to be preferred; but, for the amount of work done at our Mints, it is best to continue the use of nitric acid. At least, I would not recommend any change now in your operations, which would require so great an expenditure as this.

Dr. Riddell's third question is "whether Mexican bars should be refined previous to parting."— We never refine ~~previous~~ before parting, when this process is requisite.

Dr. Riddell asks, fourthly, whether, "he may not pickle gold ingots himself, before they are formally delivered to the Coiner." I answer that he may do so, of course, if he desires it. The pickling of the ingots is done by the Coiner, only because he has the means ~~more~~ always at his command; but he is considered as acting for the Melter & Refiner.

R. M. P.
D. M.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq,
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

July 6. 1840.

Mint of the United States,
July 7, 1840.

Sir,

I enclose herewith, accompanied by the necessary vouchers, a statement of the Account of your Branch, for expenses incurred here, during the quarter, ending on the 30th ult. There remains to your credit a balance of Seventeen 38/100 dollars ($17.38).

My late correspondence with the Superintendent will give you all the information I possess with regard to your accounts at Washington. The difficulty, I presume, lies entirely in the expenditures under the appropriations for establishing the Mint, — which expenditures seem to have been continued to this day. A rigid scrutiny into this matter has been ~~going on~~ instituted by a Committee of Congress, in consequence, I believe, of a claim made by the Contractors for extra work. No doubt you have been informed, before this time, of the state of this business. The blame, — if ~~th~~ cause of blame be established, — must fall most heavily upon the former régime at your Mint.

R. M. P.
D. M.

W/ H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasurer &c.

To/ H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasurer Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

July 7. 1840.

end, so long as we have any metal either to melt or coin; unless, a feeling which, with us all should be stronger than any other, to wit, a desire for harmony and peace throughout the Establishment, should bring about between you, a better understanding, founded upon a spirit of mutual concession —

I have never to any one given the slightest intimation that you had lost my regard — You have not done so —

respy y^r. obed^t. Servt.

Signed — J. M. Kennedy

Sup^t.

(Copy)

Melter & Refiner's Office
7th July 1840

J. M. Kennedy Esqr
Superintendent

Sir,

I received yesterday for explanation from the Secretary of the Treasury, a copy of certain charges made against me. They are as follows =

1. That you have unnecessarily quarreled with, and discharged your Workmen - that you have lost the regard of your fellow Officers, and that you have not succeeded in preserving in the Mint the harmony and good feeling so much to be desired, and without which the operations of the Mint must be retarded and the situation of the other officers rendered unpleasant -

2nd That you are giving bad ingots to the Coiner, and do not seem able to make them better -

3d That the day after the examination of the contents of your vault by the Treasurer, you went, accompanied with your brother and one of your Workmen to the lodgings of Mr McCarthy formerly one of your Workmen who had left the Mint, and whipped him very severely - that this transaction has brought disgrace upon the establish=ment, and subjected you, as well as those who accompanied you, to a criminal prosecution"

Permit me respectfully to inquire whether these charges were wholly or in part proffered by yourself - If but a part of them were made by yourself, be pleased to designate the same to me, and oblige respectfully yr. obedt. Servt.

signed J. L. Riddell.

(Copy) Melter & Refiner's Office
July 7. 1840

J. M. Kennedy Esq Supt.

Sir,

I have recd. a copy of charges preferred against me at Washington - among them one in the following words:

"that you have lost the regard of your fellow Officers"

I should be pained to suppose that you could not for yourself individually give me the means of refuting it. Oblige me by doing so, or let me know wherein I have deserved a penalty so unwelcome to my desires and feelings - respy. yr. obedt. Servt.

Signed J. L. Riddell -

(Copy)

U. S. Branch Mint Supt's Office
N. Orleans July 9. 1840

Dr. J. L. Riddell
Melter & Refiner,

Sir,

I have not until this moment had the leisure to reply to your two notes of the 7th instant, in one of which you inquire of me, whether certain charges against you, therein enumerated, and submitted to you for explanation by the Secretary of the Treasury, were "wholly or in part preffered by myself."
This inquiry, on your part, has excited within me, a feeling as well of mortification as surprise, for, I had flattered myself, that during six or seven months, of daily official intercourse with me, I had afforded you opportunities enough of seeing that it was not in my character to make an attack in the dark. Had it ever entered my mind to prefer any of the charges of which you have spoken, to no one would my intention have been communicated, sooner than yourself.
Three instances alone, if I remember right, have occurred, in which I have had occasion

to mention your name to Dr. Patterson in connexion with any thing like, an undesirable state of affairs in the Mint

When I replied to his inquiries about the discharge of two of your workmen, my statement was read by yourself, and approved as containing the exact circumstances of the case.

The second instance grew out of the controversy between the Coiner and you about the gold, and the manner in which that matter was laid before the Director, was submitted to, and recognized by both that officer and yourself as correct.

The last was in obedience to an imperative duty, of which I apprized you at the time - It was the representation of your affair with McCarthy given without a word of comment upon your conduct, and for reasons with which you were by me made fully acquainted =

I cannot omit the opportunity now offered of renewing to you, the expression of the deep regret I experience, at the misunderstanding which has existed for some time between you and Mr. Tyler. The question appears to have grown into one of qualification, or skill, in which the pride of each is exclusively involved. Hence, each one of you, in the full conviction that he is thoroughly acquainted with his own business is unwilling to listen to any thing from the other in the way of suggestion. This is a state of things to which I can foresee no end, so long as we have any metal either to melt or coin; - unless, a feeling which, with us all should be stronger than any other, to wit, a desire for harmony and peace throughout the Establishment, should bring about between you, a better understanding, founded upon a spirit of mutual concession —]

I have never to any one given the slightest intimation that you had lost my regard - You have not done so -

Respy yr obedt Servt.

Signed - J. M. Kennedy

Supt.

(Copy.)

Sir,

In reply to your Note, of the 7th I have to say, that for some time past, the business of this Mint, has not moved on with that success and good feeling among the Officers and workmen, that should characterize its operations. In relation to this, I have several times conversed with you, and have always, as you know, been most anxious and have used every exertion, to restore that good understanding and friendly feeling, which, unfortunately had been disturbed. Failing in this, I felt myself called upon, as I mentioned to you at the time and since, to address Dr Patterson on the subject, which I did, through the Superintendent here. The following is extract of my letter & copy of what relates to yourself, and this is I believe, the only instance wherein I have had occasion to mention your name to Dr Patterson, since I announced your arrival from Texas.

"I will here remark to you candidly, and I do it with
"reluctance, that the Melting & Refining department in
"its operations, has not reached the anticipations I had
"entertained, in consequence of the recommendations so warmly
"made by the friends of Dr Riddell, nor has he succeeded in
"preserving in the Mint, that harmony and good feeling so
"much to be desired, and without which, its operations must
"be retarded, and the situation of the other Officers rendered

"unpleasant.. As it was I, who first brought Dr Riddells name "before you for nomination, which I did, without knowing him, "and without his knowledge, I feel it incumbent on me to "apprize you of my disappointment."

This was enclosed by me to the Superintendent in a letter from which the following is an extract.

"As I am actuated only by a sense of duty, I trust there "will be no action on what I have written, and for this "reason, I suggest to you the propriety of my letter "being considered private; I do this with the more "propriety, as you have intimated your intention of "reporting to Dr Patterson on this subject."

In regard to the Gold Ingots, about which there has been so much contention, I have studiously avoided to express an opinion except to yourself when asked; I now, as then must say, that I cannot agree with you in opinion, that they were cracked intentionally by the Coiner or his workmen.

I entertain towards you no unfriendly feelings whatever, I am deeply pained that unfortunate misunderstandings have again disturbed the quiet of this Mint, and grieve that in the discharge of the duties of my Office, I am compelled to disregard personal considerations.

In conclusion, I have to state, that I have never said that you have lost my regard.

I am respectfully, Yr mo. obt. Servt.
(Signed) H. Cammack

Dr J. L. Riddell
Melter & Refiner

New Orleans
July 9th 1840

(Copy)

Melter & Refiner's Office
July 7. 1840.

H. C. Cammack Esq.

Sir,

I have received a copy of Charges preferred against me at Washington, among them one in the following words; —

"That you have lost the regard of your fellow Officers."

I should be pained to suppose that you could not for yourself individually, give me the means of refuting it. Oblige me by doing so, or let me know wherein I have deserved a penalty so unwelcome to my desires and feelings.

Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
(Signed) J. L. Riddell

Mint U. S.
July 11th, 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ult., on the subject of the personal assault made by you on MacCarthy, a workman discharged from the Mint. I still consider this attack with great disapprobation and regret, and I cannot but hope that, on a calm review of the matter, you also look upon it in the same light. I acknowledge, however, that your ~~provoca~~ cause of provocation was very great, and presents a feature, unknown to me before, and which ~~somewhat~~ gives a new aspect to the affair: I allude to the accusation which you say that he made against you, and which entered into close relationships of your life entirely disconnected with your official station. My letters to Mr. Kennedy will show that I considered it one of the worst features of your assault on MacCarthy, that it was made by an officer on a subaltern, and in consequence of an official dispute. It now appears ~~that~~ the affair was not wholly of ~~an official~~ that character: ~~that it was at all~~ so, should have withheld your ~~arm~~ from a resort to illegal measures, even if your conscience could excuse such resort in any case.

R. M. P.

D

To/
Dr. J. L. Riddell,
Melter & Refiner of
Branch Mint,
New Orleans

To/
Dr. John. L. Riddell,
Melter & Ref. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

July 11. 1840.

U. S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans July 12. 1840

Sir,

Dr. Riddell, on the receipt of a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, submitting for explanation certain charges I prefer'd against him, addressed me two letters. Of these, as well as of my reply thereto I have the honor to enclose copies, for I deem it proper that you should be kept acquainted with every step that is taken in this matter. Notes were also received from Dr. R. by the other officers of the Mint. I know it to be the intention of Mr. Cammack (with whom I converse about our affairs more freely than the rest) to furnish you with a copy of his reply.

It is, I assure you, difficult to find a person, in every respect, suitable for the Office of Melter & Refiner, in case of a vacancy. As yet I have been unable to do so. Should the President determine upon dismissing the present incumbent, it is more than probable that you will know it some time before the removal is made. In that event, should you think fit to reiterate your request, and allow me to consult with some friends who feel a deep interest in the success of our Institution, I will take all the pains in my power to recommend a proper successor.

Mr. Tyler, I am happy to inform you has been able to work about $8000, of the last melt of gold – Dr. Riddell requests me to say that the process followed by you in the preparation of gold and which was explained (in your words) in a communication formerly sent to this Mint, has never "come into his hands." He has taken a copy of the "general view of it" which you have given in your's of the 27th ulto – I trust we shall now get along better =

I yesterday recd a letter from the Secre=tary of the Treasury in relation to "the out houses, marble mantels &c." I am instructed to report "under whose authority, and by whose direction the out houses were built, by whom the expenditure for furniture were authorized, of what the furniture principally consists, whether the expenditures under all these heads were made with a due regard to economy, and to state whether all, or how many of the Officers of the Mint reside in the building? You shall be furnished with a copy of my report.

I will conclude by asking (with your leave) a question which concerns myself. You know that I do not *reside* in the Mint. Do you think my presence in the establishment essential, *during a certain length of time* (and if so how long) on every working day whether it be necessary or not *for that period*, or so long only as is requisite for the perfor=
=mance of *all my duties* as Superintendent. You may possibly, some day or other, see my object in asking your opinion upon this subject.

I am Sir with great respect
Your faithful Servant

J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director, &c.

From/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
July 12.
Recd " 27. 1840.

New Orleans July 13th 1840

Sir,

I have the pleasure to own receipt of your letter of 26th ultimo .. There is no record in this Office of the expenses made by Mr. Gordon for Buildings, Machinery &c. in establishing this Mint; By the books it appears that Mr. Forstall expended on this account about $46.000. I have expended $3436.09. as per accounts rendered, copies of which I will forward to you. There may be charged under this head, some small items, which, perhaps, properly belonged to some other appropriation. Not one dollar has been expended by me on out-buildings, and only one Mantle piece has been bought for $60. under your authority, to make my appartments comfortable ..

I am sorry to find that the Secretary of the Treasury will not increase our deposite Account, on the contrary, he intimates an intention of drawing on the amount already here; You are aware, I believe, that we have $50.000. in Silver, and $72.000 in Gold ..

Our City, thus far, continues very healthy, tho' many persons apprehend a sickly season, owing to the rapid fall of the River .. A suspension of operations in the Mint, I hope, can be avoided, though a recess of a few weeks will, perhaps, be necessary for cleaning up, repairing, refitting &c. which were entirely overlooked last year, during the confusion here ..

I am gratified to learn from you that this Branch has been gaining in efficiency and in Credit.. Business here is nearly over for the Season, and our deposites are falling off.. In the month of June the deposites were 88.000. Dollars, of which $75000.. were procured from the Banks; on these we cannot depend during the hot months, when the Officers are often absent from the City..

My Contingent accounts are ready, and will be forwarded tomorrow or the next day.

I am, very respectfully
Your faithful Servt.
H. Cammack

Dr R. M. Patterson
Philadelphia

P. S.

I inclose copy of a letter from Dr Riddell and my reply, which Mr Kennedy has informed you will be sent.

Br: Mint New Orleans.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint -
~~New Orleans~~ -
Philadelphia.

From H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasr. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
July 13.
Recd " 27. 1840.

(Copy)

Coiner's Office U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans July 16. 1840

To / J. M. Kennedy Esqre
Superintendent

Dear Sir,

I beg to call your early attention to the repairs necessary in my department.

The principal gearing of the Engine and Rolling room is much out of Order, in consequence of the irregular setting of the Mason Work, upon which the Steam Engine and Machinery are built, all of which shd. be re-adjusted.

The Boiler-furnace requires a new front, and I think it would be a matter of prudence and economy to reset the boilers throughout as the bad bricks upon which they were first laid are constantly giving way so much that the connecting pipe of the boilers has already been broken, which being fortunately discovered in time was renewed without further damage. The principal item of expense will be the castings for the fire front, for which there are suitable patterns at Messrs. Leeds & Co's foundry.

One third of the floor in the Rolling room, as well as the whole of that in the Coining room, should be laid anew.

I would also mention, that we shall soon require more dime, half-dime and half dollar dies, as the ones we are now using are the last we have, there are plenty of all other denominations.

Very respectfully

Your faithful Servant

Signed, P. R. Tyler.

Comr

N. Orleans
July 10th '40

Sir,

I take the liberty of addressing you in relation to the 3rd charges made against Dr Riddell of the Mint of this place. I should have done so before did I think the charges at all worthy of notice; — Knowing Dr R. for many years — having served with him in the Faculty of the Medical College for four or five years, & seeing him in every relation that one gentleman can see another, my opinion can be put in the same class with the estimate of my character.

I can then say, in brief, that standing as he does in relation to the fellow McCarty, & estimating the mode in which public is formed here, that Dr Riddell could not, in safety, have acted otherwise than he did. You, Sir, are fully aware of the value of character, I need not say then how you should & would feel, were you assailed as a robber — a defaulter & of every approbrious epithet by a fellow of fictitious reputation, who not only assailed him through every private source, but did it through the public press. Dr Riddell consulted me in regard to the course it was thought best to pursue, though one of the last men to advise a resort to violence of any kind, — I stated to him that it was his duty to his reputation & the safety of his sureties — first — to prove to the public that the charges were false & malicious libels, which he promptly did, by having the whole of his bullion weighed & accounts examined, — & then, that as there was but one way of reaching the wretch & that was through his corporeal feelings, it was due to him so to punish him; — The idea of a libel or scandal suit was a mere mockery, & was giving the fellow an importance he could not reach any other way.

It was my conviction & is so still that Dr Riddell in this community could have acted in no other way, & I do verily believe that he is completely justified in the opinion of all honorable men here.

I was astonished to see the handle made of it by his opponents, but it must have been excessively misrepresented to have reached the dignity of a notice by the Government! Any wretch however contemptible can "prosecute," but it belongs to our Courts of justice to convict or to justify.

Excuse the trouble I am giving you in calling your attention to this disgraceful charge & believe me, Sir, that it is as unworthy of Riddell as of you or myself. "With regard to Dr Riddell's "scientific qualifications, he has no superior in this community, & if he cannot

—always make himself as agreeable as others, it is because he has sacrificed the specious to the solid, & though he may want some of the gilding of social intercourse, he has the solid ore of substantial good feelings, of extensive acquirements & unquestionable integrity.

With the highest respect & esteem—

I remain

Your obt St

E. H. Barton

N. ORLEANS La.
JUL
19

PAID

25

Dr R. M. Patterson

Philadelphia

From
Dr. E. H. Barton.
New Orleans
July 17/40.

Recd. 28th.

U. S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans July 20. 1840

Sir

I enclose a copy of the report from our Coiner. He informs me that from three to four weeks, at least, will be necessary to get his Department in complete order. If your authority should be requisite to enable me to put the Mint in recess, for that length of time you would oblige me by letting me have it. In that event, I think it more than likely, from what was once or twice fallen from him in conversation, that Mr. Tyler will apply to me for leave of absence during that period. Am I to grant it, upon his appointing some competent person to superintend the repairs mentioned in his report? The object with him of a short visit to Philadelphia, would be to perfect himself in the operations of his Department.

I have copied for Dr. Riddell the answer given by you in your letter to me of the 6th instant, to his questions concerning certain operations in his department. I have communicated to him, also, your reas for declining to send McCarthy's letter to you, to be used on the trial of his action against the latter for slander. He is very disappointed and dissatisfied. I would here remark, that Dr Riddell's knowledge of such a letter having been written to you, was long anterior to the reception by me, of your communication of the 13th ulto mentioning the fact. He had heard it from several persons, to whom McCarthy himself had made known both his determination and it's subsequent accomplishment.

You are, I am almost confident, right, when you say that the same quarrelsome disposition which broke up our Institution once, is again in action - I see as yet nothing tangible nothing that can be got at, but, that there is some scheme on foot, some dark intrigue, big with *change* and *expectation*, is just as certain, in my opinion, as any thing can be, that we do not positively know. Let us hope that it's only issue may be discomfiture.

It is, I assure you, with no feeling of conventional affectation, but with all the sincerity which your favor of the 9th instant calculated to inspire that I once more thank you for your kind expressions in regard to myself.

I am Sir,
With great respect
Your faithful Servant
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director Mint of
the U. S.
Phila

P.S. In the way of repairs, the Melting department will require little or nothing.

From/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
July 20.
Recd " 31. 1840.

July 1840

Treasury Department
July 25th 1840.

Sir,

I transmit herewith a communication received from Dr. Riddell, in reply to & explanation of, the charges preferred against him as Melter & Refiner at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans, together with the documents which accompanied it.

You will be pleased, after giving them a careful examination, to report to the Department whether in your opinion the explanations are satisfactory - and I will thank you to return the papers, as soon as may be, to the Dept. with your views on the subject.

As it would seem from the papers, that the communication from your Mint to the Br. at N. Orleans explaining the process pursued in making gold ingots was not received or found on file by for Dr. Riddel - I would suggest that a copy be transmitted to him.

Very Respectfully
Levi Woodbury
Sec of the Treasury.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Philadelphia.

From/

Sec. of Treasury.

July 23.

Rec'd " 27. 1840.

Mint of the United States
July 27, 1848.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th inst., transmitting a communication from Dr. J. L. Riddell, in reply to, and explanation of, the charges preferred against him as Melter and Refiner of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, together with the documents which accompanied it.

I have given ~~a~~ careful attention to these documents, as well as to other communications received by me on the same subject; and I proceed to communicate to you the impressions left on my mind.

First, as to the attack made on MacCarthy, though I still think it ~~an~~ most improper and ill-advised, I must acknowledge that the provocation was very great, and Dr. Riddell's letter to me of the 28th of June, ~~(marked S in the documents,)~~ presents ~~an~~ a feature in this quarrel unknown to me before, and which is calculated to soften the judgment as to his course. I allude to ~~MacCarthy's assertion that Dr. an~~ ~~attack made~~ a slander uttered by MacCarthy ~~on~~ against Dr. Riddell, which was of an exclusively personal character, (unconnected with the Mint,) and which was no doubt ~~equally~~ as false ~~and slanderous~~ as it was ~~slanderous~~ infamous.

As to the gold ingots, ~~I am convinced that they were not of a proper degree of ductility~~ I have to remark that the detail of the trials made on them by the Coiner can lead to no other conclusion, ~~and the simple fact that a smaller~~ than that they were not of a proper degree of ductility; and it now appears that Dr. Riddell was, in fact, not aware of the difficulty of making ~~the~~ alloys of gold ductile, and was not acquainted with the process to be followed for this purpose. I had supposed that all our former instructions were on file at the New Orleans Mint; but it seems that this is not the case. The omission, in the present case, has been already supplied, in ~~such~~ a manner which I presume to be sufficient, but a copy of the original instructions shall be also sent.

~~With~~ Dr. Riddell's reasons for the discharg~~ing~~ of his men, I have been made acquainted by the Superintendent, and I think that they were satisfactory.

It is a great misfortune to the New Orleans Mint, that the Melter & the Coiner should be ~~are not~~ on terms of ~~personal~~ misunderstanding. Mr. Tyler is probably not blameless in this matter, but neither, certainly, is Dr. Riddell, whose course shows too much of an unconciliating ~~belligerent~~ disposition. Mr. Cammack says of him — "he has not succeeded in preserving in the Mint that harmony and good feeling so much to be desired, and without which its operations must be retarded, and the situation of the other officers rendered unpleasant." — Mr. Kennedy, in his letter to Dr. Riddell, of the 9th inst., says, "I cannot omit the opportunity — — — — — — — — — concession."

With such proper views ~~held~~ entertained by the Officer who has the immediate control of the N.O. Mint, ~~and~~ with the ~~evidence of the trouble into that~~ knowledge that ~~personal~~ disputes ~~misunderstan~~ ~~quarrels~~ ~~among~~ among the officers brought that Mint, but a short time ago, to the verge of ruin, — and has now given rise to so much trouble and confusion as to be one of the causes requiring the interference of the government, I hope that a better spirit will be cherished among them for the future, and that this source of complaint may be removed.

On the whole, though the evidence shows that ~~I must recommend that no further steps be taken by the government in this matter~~. there has been want of prudence and sound judgment in Dr. Riddell's course, ~~but~~ I do not think there remains sufficient cause for any further action, in the case, on the part of the government.

R. M. P.

W/
Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury.

P.S. I return you all the papers, as you desire.

12
Sec. of Treasury.
July 27, 1840.

Treasury Department
July 27. 1840.

Sir,

I transmitted on Saturday, for your examination &c a communication received from Dr. Riddell accompanied by documents in explanation &c of the charges against him as Melter & Refiner at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans - And I have received a copy of a letter addressed to you by Dr. E H Barton which I send herewith - lest the original should not have been received by you.

I take occasion to call your attention particularly to one point in the case - It is stated, that the Coiner had succeeded in coining some of the bars from a melt of Gold at first objected to by him as being too brittle &c - If such be the fact, and Dr. Riddells explanations in relation to that matter are satisfactory, does it not necessarily follow that censure attaches to the Coiner for his conduct.

I mention this in order to suggest whether in giving the case your consideration it would not be well

to:

make some enquiries as to the competence of the Coiner and his general fitness for the situation he holds &c Some informal complaints have been mentioned to me against him.

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury

Sec of the Treasury.

Dr. R. M. Patterson

Philada.

From
Sec. of Treasury.
July 27.
Rec'd " 29. 1840.

Mint U. S.
July 28/41.

Sir,

I received yesterday your letter of the 12th inst., and I received, at the same time, ~~for my report thereon,~~ from the Secretary of the Treasury, Dr. Riddell's reply to, and explanation of, the charges preferred against him, as to certain recent transactions at your mint. I have given to the Secretary my report on this matter, and he will probably, at a very early day, ~~send to you the decision~~ let you know the course which government will pursue in the case. In the mean while, it may relieve your mind to be told, that, in my opinion, there will be no further action taken with regard to ~~it~~ Dr. Riddell. And now, Sir, cannot peace be restored to your establishment? I know that you will spare no pains to bring about an end so desirable. You have had the discretion to avoid becoming a partizan in the disputes, and this circumstance must add great force to your official influence.

The ~~excessive~~ large expenditures at your Mint building &c., for extras beyond the contracts, have produced great astonishment. I know that many of them were necessary, but yet I fear that a due regard to economy has not always govern those who had the control of the expenditures. The greater part, & indeed almost the whole, of this responsibility must rest however, upon your predecessors in office.

You are to be yourself the judge of the time which it is necessary for you to spend at the Mint daily, for the full and satisfactory performance of your duties, and it need not, ~~however~~ of course, be the same as that required of the officers who have workmen to superintend, ~~and bullion to guard while in the Mint processes~~ or deposits to receive and pay. — It is impossible for me even to advise you as to the time that should be spent. This must necessarily be left to your own sense of responsibility. I hope that no intrigues are at work affecting you, or aiming to make your situation uncomfortable. God preserve your Mint from false friends.

R. M. P.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint
N. Orleans.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
July 28. 1840.

Philadelphia. July 28th, 1841.

Dear Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 17th inst., on the subject of the difficulties into which Dr. Riddell has brought himself.—

In answer, I beg to assure you, in the first place, that my prepossessions were strongly in favor of your friend. It was a real gratification to me to be able to recommend to the office which he fills, a man of science,— a successful teacher of chemistry,—a ~~gentleman~~ naturalist whose love of knowledge had led him to search after it in the wilds of Texas.

In the execution of his duties, I have reason to believe that Dr. Riddell has shown great ~~assiduity~~ industry, zeal, and ingenuity. He possesses many of the ~~valuable~~ qualities required to make ~~for~~ a valuable officer. He would be all we could desire, if to these be added a more conciliating disposition,—a willingness to yield something for the sake of peace, even where he considered himself right.

The resort to muscular force in proof of integrity of mind and character is a practice too utterly absurd for argument. It may be the fashion in some places and among some people; but it is not the less a moral deformity. Some savages wear a load in the nether lip, and take pride in this piece of dandyism: but a hanging lip is essentially ugly for all that. If any thing could induce me to make an attack upon another, it would be vengeance for a personal offence, and I would acknowledge my motive like a man, and risk the loss of character which might follow. Of the slanders uttered by Dr. MacCarthy against Dr. Riddell, there was one reported to me, too horrible to be repeated, and which, in my judgment, forms the only plausible excuse for the assault which was ~~committed~~ made. So far as this assault had ~~relation~~ regard to accusations affecting Dr. Riddell's official character, I think it was ill-advised, whoever may have been the advisers; and ~~if there be a~~ I hope there is yet to be found a civilized community which can think a man's character a whit improved by his beating another man.

You are mistaken if you suppose this affair was the only one that directed the inquiries of the government to Dr. Riddell. It may be gratifying to you, however, ~~for me~~ ~~to receive the assurance~~ to be assured of my conviction that no further action is likely to be taken in this case:

With great regard,

Yours: very faithfully,

To/
Dr. E. H. Barton.
New Orleans.

To/

Dr. E. H. Barton,
New Orleans, La.

July 28. 1840.

(Confidential.)

Mint U. S.
July 29 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th inst.

I had received Dr. E. H. Barton's letter, and had answered it. His defence of an ~~resort~~ appeal to muscular force in ~~proof~~ support of moral and official integrity ~~is too absurd~~ may receive favor among certain portions of the community with which he associates, and may be dignified by the name of public opinion; but ~~it~~ such conduct is not the less a moral deformity, and will never receive my approbation, or (I am sure I may add) yours. — The slander to which I alluded in my ~~reports~~ communication to you sent yesterday, (and which I would not repeat in a public document,) was an assertion by Dr. MacCarthy that Dr. Riddell had been the murderer of his wife, who died not long since at the Mint. For so gross ~~an~~ personal offence, a man may be driven to take personal vengeance, and I should not be disposed to pass heavy judgment upon his conduct. I should not be so absurd, however, as to think he had raised his character by it.

Mr. Kennedy, in a letter of the 12th inst., writes as follows: — "Mr. Tyler, I am happy to inform you, has been able to make about $8000 of the last melt of gold. Dr. Riddell requests me to say that the process followed by you in the preparation of gold, and which was explained (in your words) in a communication formerly sent to ~~t~~ this Mint, has never come to his hands. He has taken a copy of the general view of it which you have given me in yours of the 27th ult. I trust we shall now get along better".

The first part of this extract requires explanation, for which I shall ask. Neither the language nor the amount would lead one to think that the whole melt was rolled. The quantity would make about a third or a fourth part of one of our melts. Was the remainder unfit for rolling? This could only happen from bad casting, ~~which may have~~ but with inexperienced hands ~~it~~ it may have occurred. When casting quarter-eagle ingots we have generally had to interrupt the operation in the middle, to cover the pot, and give a greater heat to the metal. If this be neglected, the ingots will be spoiled. ~~occurred, though it is not probable.~~ Besides, it may be possible to roll ingots, by small degrees and frequent annealing, which a Coiner might, notwithstanding, be justified in rejecting.

The last part of the extract convinces me that the Melter was not acquainted with the process to be followed, in order to make ductile alloys of gold. In one of his letters he asserts that the gold must have been ductile because ~~because~~ the ingots were made out of fine gold obtained from the process of par ting. Nothing can be more fallacious than this inference. If perfectly ductile fine gold be melted down with perfectly ductile copper in the proportion necessary to ~~alloy~~ bring it to our standard, the ingots thus formed will always be found brittle, — sometimes exceedingly so. This is one of the mysteries of the art, which I am unable to explain, and of which Dr. Riddell seems to have been ignorant. — I take the liberty of sending herewith a copy of my letter to Mr. Kennedy of the 27th ult., a perusal of which will show you how ~~easily~~ naturally all Dr. Riddell's difficulties as to the ingots may have arisen.

As to the question of Mr. Tyler's competence and fidelity, I must refer you to my letters of the 21st of March and 22d of April, the latter enclosing a letter from Mr. Kennedy and a note from Mr. Cammack. I fear that Mr. Tyler has inherited from his brother the enmity of ~~the~~ some individuals connected with the former regime of the New Orleans Mint, and that they ~~must~~ are using their exertions to injure him, without just and sufficient cause. Mr. Tyler & Dr. Riddell are both deficient in experience, but they have the ~~knowledge~~ general knowledge of their respective departments, and the requisite talent, to make them good officers, if they can only be encouraged to cooperate together in peace. ~~To bring about this desirable end~~ I have urged it upon Mr. Kennedy to use every exertion to bring about this most desirable end.

R. M. P.
D

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury

To/ Sec. of Treasury.
July 29. 1840.

Mint U. S.
July 30, 1840.

Sir,

I send you herewith a copy of the directions, prepared by Mr. Peale formerly Melter & Refiner, for the management of gold deposits at the Branch Mints. This is the paper referred to in my letter of the 27th ult. It is probable that Mr. Maxwell retained the copy for your mint, and that it may not have found its place in your files, and therefore not have got into Dr. Riddell's hands. It is not as explicit as I had supposed, but it must be remembered that it was written as a memorandum for officers who had witnessed, at this Mint, the operations in detail. If there be any points on which Dr. Riddell wishes explanations or instructions, they will be cheerfully & promptly furnished.

In your letter of the 12th inst. you say,— "Mr. Tyler, I am happy to inform you, has been able to work about $8000 of the last melt of gold." It has become necessary for me to ask you some questions as to this matter. In the first place, then, I wish to know if this was the whole amount of the melt, and if not, what proportion of it. — Secondly, if any of the ingots of this melt were not rolled, why were they rejected?

Were some more ductile than others? — Thirdly, was this one of the Melts before rejected by Mr. Tyler? If so, how did it happen that it again came into his hands, and was rolled? Was it rolled readily, or with difficulty? Was particular precaution necessary in the operation, — such as very frequent passing through the rolls, and very frequent annealing? Was this the Melt, the unsuccessful attempts to roll which are described by Mr. Tyler? — Any other information that you may possess on this subject, I will thank you to communicate.

I ask these questions in consequence of a suggestion made by the Secretary of the Treasury, with whom, the rolling of a Melt of ingots which had been previously rejected, has been made a ground of censure upon the Coiner, "against whom some informal complaints had been made to him."

Please to inform Dr. Riddell, that in casting quarter-eagle ingots, we are generally, if not always, under the necessity of stopping the work in the midst, covering up the pots, and increasing the heat of the metal, which has become too much chilled by the exposure. If this is neglected, the last ingots are spoiled.

Was this circumstance attended to in the melt above referred to; — which I understand to have been of quarter-eagle ingots?

R. M. P.
Director.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

July 30. 1840.

Note of operations written to the Branch ~~Gold~~ Mint of the United States in the Melter & Refiners ~~department~~, as to the treatment of Gold.

When Gold has been received from the Treasurer and duly entered in the Melter & Refiners Book, noting its description, number, Gross and Standard weight, ~~and the Quality~~ and Standard wt of Silver contained when the latter is reported, the first operation is to determine ~~ascertain~~ from the assay report and its ~~app~~ character ~~[illegible]~~, i.e. to which of the operations it wants ~~to be subjected~~ ~~which~~ of three classes it belongs the proportion of each of which indicating the requisite ~~proportion~~ treatment ~~according to what is the operation to which it must be subjected~~,

1st Ready for melting, being ductile ~~& ductile~~

2nd ~~to be~~ ~~Parted~~ Requiring to be Parted

3rd ~~Gold Toughened~~ ditto Toughened

The first is ready to form a pot ~~or~~ for ingots ~~any~~ a part of a pot for ingots ~~that~~ according to its weight with the necessary alloy, the latter to ~~be~~ consist as near as may be of 1/4 ~~Silver~~, if it is not contained in the Gold it must be added to the alloy so as to make or form that proportion —

The second operation, is as follows, ~~the quantity of Silver being known~~ Gold with Silver or Silver containing Gold must be added to the Quantity necessary to form a pot, in proportions that vary according to the quantity of Silver on hand, if the latter is large 5 or 6 times the wt of the Gold may be added, but the most desirable proportion is 3½ or 4 to one. The whole is then melted and well stirred in a blacklead crucible of a capacity indicated by No 25 or 30. and poured in a small stream into Cold water, This operation is technically called granulation and divides the metal in minute parts.

~~[illegible]~~

This granulated metal is then ~~[illegible]~~ dried in a pan over a charcoal fire, and weighed into lots of 5 lbs each and placed in the parting vessels of Glass ~~when~~ or Stone ware ~~[illegible]~~ and added of nitric acid. Great care is taken in approaching the vessels to the requisite degree ~~to promote~~ of heat, of the Sand Baths on which they are placed and upon which they are kept in ebullition until the whole of the Silver is dissolved, which is indicated by the disappearance of the purple fumes of Nitrous Acid — the Nitrate of Silver is then poured off and the Gold which remains, ~~in the form of a~~ ~~as~~ under its form of a brown powder is carefully washed ~~and~~ filtered, and melted with a small quantity of Nitrate of Potash —

~~Process~~ — Purification of Nitric acid

A ~~proportion of Silver~~ process suited particularly to the Branch Mints, where Silver is not deposited, has been prepared ~~and~~ by the assayer ~~of the Mint~~ at this place and is as follows.

The pots are to be made up, in the proportion of 2 parts of Silver to 1 of Gold, being melted and ~~poured into ingot moulds~~ cast into ingots it is to be rolled to an established thickness equal to [illegible] parts of an inch, then divided and rolled into cornets. and then subjected to the action of Nitric acid as before — it is not necessary that it should be made into fine Gold ~~and~~ for if ~~[illegible]~~ the quality or assay proves to be ~~[illegible]~~ 333⅓ millièmes it will have ~~very~~ nearly the proper ~~exact~~ quantity of Silver ~~in the alloy~~ and none the need be added.

The third operation is toughening, and results in producing an alloy of Gold & Copper usually below st^d standard in which the union of the two metals is complete and the result ductile.

The Gold is ~~first~~ selected so as to form pots of about, 400 oz in wt. to which between 1/4 and 1/15th of its wt of Copper is to the added though the quantity will necessarily vary according to the quantity and quality of other Metals with which ~~it may be desirable~~ it is to be united in making up the Melt for ingots — The Gold is then ~~the Gold~~ melted in a sand crucible and when fluid the Copper is added and the whole stirred, it then receives a dose of Nitrate of Potash which remains in contact with the metal until entirely decomposed when Bone ashes in powder is added to collect the Caustic Potash from the surface, and a fresh dose of Nitre given thus repeated 3 or four times or until it appeared that the Com~~bination~~ of the metals is complete — The sand crucible is ~~then~~ usually placed inside of another of black lead, the action of the Nitre being powerful upon the ~~pots~~ crucibles renders this precaution necessary —

The Metal is poured into moulds and pieces cutted for assay which ordinary is found to be 800 millièmes fine but the result is extremely variable —

These bars of toughened Gold are then combined with the fine Gold from the Sepn or any other source ~~endeavouring to~~ care being taken to select in such proportions as shall make the combined amounts of standard quality or as near to it as possible as it is found that crude copper cannot be added in any quantity without rendering the whole brittle, although any required quantity of Silver may be without disadvantage —

The Nitrate of Silver from the Separation of Gold is poured into a Saturated Solution of Muriate of Soda common salt and stirred until it ~~settles rapidly~~ is completely precipd — the chloride of Silver thus formed is washed with warm water untill it is perfectly free from acid taste, when ~~Pulverized~~ granulated Zinc is added over which dilute Sulphuric acid is poured the two substances are decomposed, and the Silver assumes its metalic form. fresh dilute acid is then added to remove the surplus the Zinc which is in excess — the whole is carefully washed in warm ~~warm~~ water on a metalic filter, and then dried melted with a small quantity of Nitrate of potash and yields fine Silver 996 milliemes on the average —

The Crucibles, ashes, and all other matters with which the metals have been in contact, are ~~then~~ to be ground or pulverized in a mortar and sifted in riddles of different grades to separate the grains and the fine dust resulting is washed with care to concentrate the metalic residue, ~~which~~ is dried & fluxed with ~~Nitre, Potash, &~~ Nitrate & Carbonate of Potash and Muriate of Soda and sometimes Borax — and the result refined or separated as the case may require —

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans August 2nd 1840

Sir,

I send you our Statement for July, which was handed to me yesterday evening by the Treasurer. The gold coinage would have been considerably larger but for an accident which happened to the Machinery on the 30th of the month, and could not be repaired in time, to enable us to embrace in ~~it~~ that coinage, planchets amounting to something like $15,000, which were ready for stamping.

Dr Hort has requested me to consult you, upon the propriety of charging for assays entirely unconnected with our operations. He is frequently called upon for that purpose, and these assays are attended with a cost to the Mint, which is by no means inconsiderable. The Doctor thinks that a charge should be made, sufficient at least to cover our own expenses.

I forwarded, on the 29th ult., my report to the Secretary of the Treasury, in answer to his inquiries, on

the Subject of our Out houses, Marble Mantels
Furniture &c, of which I promised you a copy
I will send it to you in a day or two.

I am Sir
with great respect
Yr. faithful Servant
J M Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint of the
U. S.
Phila.

rom/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Aug. 2.
Recd " 12. 1840.

(Report for July.)

Statement of the deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of July 1840.

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight after melting Ounces	dw	Standard Weight Ounces	dw	Value before deductions Dollars	cts	Value after deductions Dollars	cts	Total Value before deductions Dollars	cts
Gold:										
Foreign Coins, say	294	76	285	710	5315	51	5315	51		
									5315	51
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion, say	64	20	71	04	82	66	82	45		
Foreign Coins, "	55822	60	55610	25	64709	95	64703	26		
									64.792	61
Total deposites									70.108	12

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value Dollars	cts	Total Value Dollars	cts
Gold:					
Quarter Eagles, say	3.400	8500	00		
				8500	00
Silver:					
Half Dollars, say	97.000	48.500	00		
Dimes, "	35.000	3.500	00		
Half Dimes, "	130.000	6.500	00		
	265.400			58.500	00
Total Coinage				67.000	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office, July 31st 1840
H. C. Cammack
Treasurer

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, August 1st 1840

Sir,

I have before me your letters of 26th June and 7th July, receipt of the first of which I have already acknowledged. We now make the charge of one third of a cent per ounce on all Silver deposites made for small Coins, for toughening.

Mr. Kennedy has written to Mr. Woodbury, in answer to his inquiries on the subject of the expenses for building, machinery &c. – A short time ago, I forwarded to you copy of my expenditures under this head. It is to be regretted I drew any thing on this account, and that I had not charged these bills to Contingencies, but I had no one to direct or advise me, and followed in the errors, if errors they be, of my predeceſsor. There was no record here to shew the State of that appropriation, and I supposed for some time, that there was a surplus fund, which could be used at pleasure. – Most of the letters addreſsed to this Mint, were called for in the recent investigation, and we are, no doubt, deprived of information that would have been useful. – My accounts for Contingent and ordinary expenses, were forwarded before I received your letter of 7th ultimo, you have credit in this quarter, for expenses incurred by you. – We have received no funds since I mentioned the subject to you last, our Workmen & creditors regret very much, that the movements neceſsary to get funds here are so slow; Enclosed is a copy of my account current of ordinary expenses for the last quarter. One Thousand Dollars of the Contingent fund, were paid to Mr. Slidell.

I have received as a depositary, about $56.000 of public money, but as yet I have no instructions as to the mode of keeping the Accounts, forms of returns &c. I presume that I am to pass the moneys received and paid, through the Bullion Ledger. I will be much obliged to you, if you will inform me what alterations &c are made by the Treasurer of the Mint in Philadelphia; His experience will enable him to make easily, any changes that may be required, while the distance we are from Washington, and the occasional failures of the mails, requires a considerable delay in getting information when asked. Nothing has been said to me about Clerks, Porter &c. The salary for Clerks is not enough, to secure the services in this place, of a capable and trustworthy person, and I do not know how I can manage. If I am to be allowed two additional Clerks, I would rather have one, and add the salary of the second one to the salaries of the present Clerk & Weighmaster, if such a course would be approved of by the department. Your suggestions on any thing connected with my office will be gladly received, and I will consider it a particular favor if you will write to me, with such information as you may think will be useful.

I am very respectfully
Your obt. Servant,
H. C. Cammack
Treasr.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

From/ H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Aug. 1.
Recd " 12. 1840.

Doctr R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia. —

AUG

Mint U. S.

Aug. 3 /48.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ult., with the enclosed copy of a report made to you by the Coiner, on the subject of repairs required in his department, and which are such as would require an interruption of the regular ~~[illegible]~~ work at the Mint. Being on the spot, you can best judge of the necessity of these repairs, and it certainly lies within your discretion to authorize them. If your operations must be interrupted, this is no doubt the season at which a suspension would be the least injurious.

~~It is matter of great delicacy~~

I am somewhat embarrassed by your question as to Mr. Tyler's anticipated request for leave of absence. The proposition has its dark and its bright side. He is now under jealous surveillance, and ~~his~~ the interruption in your ordinary operations may be imputed to his absence, instead of its being the cause and excuse for that absence. In the present state of things, you must all be very cautious. On the other hand, a week spent at this mint might be of great importance to Mr. Tyler, ~~as many accounts~~. I wish Dr. Riddell could also pay us a visit. I really believe that the benefit ~~of~~ to your institution from such ~~[illegible]~~ visits, would fully compensate for the interruption even if this were not rendered necessary by the state of the machinery.

On reflection, I think it best to consult the Secretary of the Treasury as to this point. I will let you know his answer.

The dies called for by Mr. Tyler are ordered.

R. M. P.
D

H/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Aug. 3. 1840.

August 1840

June

Mint U.S.
Aug. 3/41.

Sir,

In a letter from the Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint, of the 20th ult., he states, on the authority of a report from the Coiner, that certain repairs in the machinery, and especially in the steam-engine, will render necessary a suspension of the ordinary work of that Mint, for three or four weeks. At this season of the year, when very little business is done at New Orleans, this may not give rise to any serious inconvenience.

Mr. Kennedy also mentions that it is the desire of Mr. Tyler to take advantage of this ~~interruption~~ suspension of work, to make a visit to the Mint here, and he consults me as to the propriety of his granting the required leave of absence. I am somewhat embarrassed by this question; because there is unhappily a party-feeling in that Mint, (I do not mean political,) and every movement on the part of the officers may be made a cause of accusation. On the other hand, I do sincerely think that it would be very desirable that both Mr. Tyler and Dr. Riddell should

should pass a few days with us here, and witness the several operations, ~~by which they have been~~ an imperfect acquaintance with which seems to have been the origin of the troubles and misunderstandings at the N. O. Mint.

A word from you to me, consenting to such a visit, (if they choose to make it, at their own cost,) would remove the possibility of its being used to their own injury, while I believe it would be a real and permanent advantage to their institution.

R. M. P.
D.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Tr.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

Aug. 3. 1840.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Aug 5. 1840

Sir,

I send you, according to promise, a copy of my report to the Secretary of the Treasury, on the subject of the expenditures at this Mint for Out houses, Marble Mantels and furniture, and have the honor to be

very respectfully
Yr faithful Servt
J M Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqre
Director Mint U. S.
Phila

(From/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Aug. 5.
Rec'd " 17. 1840.

(Report on Out Houses, Marble
mantels, Furniture &c.)

(Copy)

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans July 29th 1840.

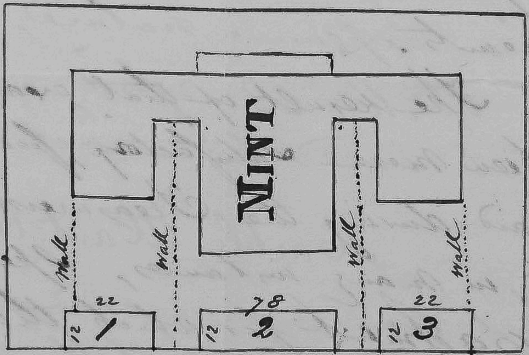
Sir,

The delay which has taken place between the receipt of your communication of the 2nd instant, and this reply, has been occasioned by my having been by you directed to state whether "the expenditures by Messrs. "Forstall and Cammack, the late and present Treasurers of this Branch Mint, under the heads of "Outhouses, furniture Marble mantels &c" have been" made with a due regard to economy". This required a knowledge, on my part, of the prices paid for each item, coming under those heads, and a consequent examination of numerous papers and accounts.

The result of that examination might have been more satisfactory for this reason. The bills paid during the Treasurership of Mr Forstall do not, in many instances, specify the particular department for which those expenditures for mantels and furniture were incurred. On the other hand as no light, on that head, could be obtained from the present Officers of the Mint, they not having been in it at the time these articles were purchased, it has been impossible, in many cases, to identify them, and ascertain the cost of each. All the information it has been in my power to obtain on the subject, I now have the honor to lay before you.

Out Houses.

They consist of three buildings, placed on the South side of the Square upon which the Mint is erected. They are composed entirely of bath-rooms and privies, are marked on the following sketch 1. 2. and 3, and were built under the authority of the late Supt. Mr. Bradford.



Nos. 1 and 3 measure each 22 feet in length by 12 feet in width, are covered with slates, and contain, each, two privies and two bath rooms. They are also 10 feet high in the clear. No 2 is 78 feet long and 12 feet wide, contains 5 bath rooms and 10 small privies, has also a slate roof and is of the same height. The amount of the contract for putting up those buildings, including the painting and the yard walls, the whole extent of which is 306 feet in length by 8 feet, in height, was $4600. I do not think it was unreasonable. The sum of $1600. was also expended upon those buildings, as pr contract with Clay & Clark, Plumbers, for baths, water closets, cisterns &c (the whole lined with zinc) and a considerable length of leaden pipes. This work, which is of an expensive nature, was also authorized by Mr Bradford, and does not appear to me to have been overcharged.

Marble Mantels.

I find them to correspond, in number, with those charged in the bills. There are altogether 16, the cost of them ranging between fifty and ninety dollars. They all have their grates, the price of which also varies from 30 to 55$.

It cannot be denied that the original cost of wooden Mantels, would have been considerably less, but as they are constantly requiring paint, and other repairs, I look upon the purchase of Marble ones as an economy "in the long run." They also correspond better with the style of the building, and the prices paid for them I do not consider extravagant. They were, with one exception, purchased under the authority of the late Superintendent.

Preferring at the time of my appointment, my own residence to one in the Mint, the apartments to which I was entitled, I gave up to Mr Cammack. That gentleman applied to me, to sanction certain alterations that he was desirous of making in the premises: Fearing that the magnitude of the expense to be incurred thereby, might be found fault with by yourself, I referred the matter to the Director of the Mint in Philadelphia.

Dr Patterson replied as follows:

" I have been embarrassed by the application made
" on behalf of Mr Cammack for alterations in his
" apartments at the Mint, so much am I afraid
" of additional expenses at this time. If you
" deem the alterations necessary however, and
" think they cannot be conveniently postponed,
" I presume you would be justified in providing
" for the comfortable accommodation of the
" Treasurer, whose residence at the Mint is
" very desirable for the public service."

Under this authority the alterations were allowed, and the purchase of one marble mantel, that constituting the exception already mentioned, was permitted by me. It's price was $60.

Furniture.

I will beg leave to state, that this furniture has been paid for, not out of the appropriations for the "Building & Machinery" of the Mint, but has been charged either to "Contingent & Incidental expenses" or to account of "Apparatus Tools and Fixtures." You have already on file in your Department the bills for furniture that were paid by Mr. Tostall.

These paid on account of purchases under that head, made since Mr. Cammack's appointment were transmitted by that Officer with his last quarterly accounts. I enclose a list of all the furniture now in the different offices in the Mint. Mr. C. has gone to no expense, that was either useless or too great, and so far as the furniture purchased under the authority of Mr. Bradford can be identified from its description in the accounts, the charges therefor do not appear to me to be unfair.

In answer to your last inquiry, I have the honor to state, that all the officers of the Mint reside therein, with the exception of myself.

Very respectfully
Yr. obedt. Servant
Signed J. M. Kennedy Supt.

Honble. Levi Woodbury
Secy. of the Treasury.

List of Furniture in the Offices of the different departments of the United States Branch Mint at New Orleans.

Superintendent's Office

One Bureau or Secretary
Six Mahogany Chairs
One Mahogany Office Chair
One Hat & Clothes Rack
One Carpet & one Rug
One Table with Cloth Cover
One portable writing desk
One Bust of Edward Livingston

Treasurer's Office

One Standing Counting House Desk, for Clerk
One Mahogany Desk, for Treas.r
One Mahogany Book Case
One Mahogany Table with Cloth cover
One Hat & Clothes Rack
One Mahogany Office Chair, & one Desk Stool
Two Mahogany Chairs
One Mahogany Railing, to enclose the Desks & Book Case
Three Mahogany Cases for collections of Coins
One Carpet & one Rug
Two Spittoons

Weighing Room

Weighing Room

Two Desks and One Book Case
Two Tables
Four Mahogany Chairs
One Counter
Two Maps (Mitchell's map of the World & map of Louª)
Two Spittoons

Coiner's Office

One double Office Desk (Mahogany)
Six Mahogany Chairs
Two Tables (One with Cloth Cover)
One Counter

Melter & Refiner's Office

One Franklin Stove, Shovel, Tongs & poker
One Office Table
One Mahogany arm Chair
Five Mahogany Chairs
One portable Desk

Melting Room

One Table
One Desk

Inside Gallery

One dozen Canebottom Chairs
Three Maps

Assayer's department

Two Iron Stoves
Three large Cupboards
One large Desk
Two Small common Tables
One large Solid table for assay balance &c
One dozen Cane bottom Chairs
One dozen Common Chairs
One Mahogany Office Chair
Oil Cloth covering for Weighing Room
One large Cistern
Stands for the humid assay, apparatus, Shelves &c

Treasury Department
August 5th 1840.

Sir,

Your several communications dated the 3rd instant have been received - and I approve of your suggestion contained in one of them - viz. That Messrs. Tyler & Riddell ~~have~~ leave to make a visit to the Mint at Philadelphia, provided it can be done during the suspension of work at N. Orleans and the parties choose to make it at their own expense. I trust you may then be able to reconcile any thing now in doubt as to either.

Very Respectfully
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury.

D. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia.

P. S. I enclose a letter received from the U. S. Consul at Vienna & send to your address, by the same Mail, the package to which he refers. This Consul having no account with the Govt. cannot have his expenditures reimbursed in the usual way by deposit to the credit of the Treasurer U.S. You can remit him the amount in a Bill of Ex. or authorise him to draw on you as may be considered best.

Sir,

Upon several conversations relative [illegible] the [illegible] have been received [illegible] of a few samples contained in each of them [illegible] Messrs. [illegible] have been [illegible] to the Mint at Philadelphia [illegible] the expenses of [illegible] and the [illegible] to make it at their own expense. [illegible]

Very Respectfully

[illegible]

Secy of the Treasury.

R. M. Patterson

Director of the Mint

Philadelphia.

P.S. [illegible]

From/
Sec. of Treasury.
August 5. 1840
Rec'd " 7. "

Mint U. S.
Aug. 7th, 1840.

Sir,

In my letter to you of the 3d inst., I told you that I would consult the Secretary of the Treasury as to the propriety of giving a temporary leave of absence, to the new operative officers of your Mint. I have just received his answer, in which he says.

"I approve of ~~the~~ your suggestion," ~~[in your letter of the 3d inst.,]~~ "viz. that Mess. Tyler & Riddell have leave to make a visit to the Mint at Philadelphia, provided it can be done during the suspension of work at New Orleans, and that the parties choose to make it at their own expense."

It is not perhaps a very liberal invitation to ask Dr. Riddell to visit us at his own cost; but, if it be not inconvenient to him to leave home under this condition, and if his other occupations permit it, I think that a ~~week~~ few days could be spent by him, at our Mint, very advantageously. He would besides have it in his power to ~~be~~ hold communication with some fellow naturalists of distinction, — Nuttall, Lea, &c., — and might thus gain a double advantage and a double pleasure from his visit.

R. M. P.

(Tr/

Jos. M. Kennedy Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Aug. 7. 1840.

Mint U. S. —

Aug. 12 / 48.

Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 1st inst.

I thank you for the information you communicate as to your expenditures and accounts, for although these are only very indirectly under my control, I am interested to know the condition of your mint in all points.

I feared you would be embarrassed as to the establishment of your Subtreasury, and had a set of our forms ready to send you, when we received a second series of instructions from the Department entirely at variance with the first, and which rendered our first books and forms useless. To avoid a recurrence of this evil, I sent a set of our forms to Washington for approbation, and, when my letter is answered, I will immediately send the set to you. In the course which you have adopted, you have, in my judgment committed a mistake. I have ~~adopted~~ assumed it as a first principle in the management of the Subtreasury, that it is to be kept, in all respects, distinct from the Mint: ~~To~~ It must have distinct accounts and books, a distinct vault, and a distinct clerk. As to the last point you will be embarrassed by the inadequate salary allowed, and I know not how you are to get over the difficulty. Perhaps the Secretary will allow the plan proposed in your letter, and make the $800 a payment for ~~new~~ ~~the~~ services, in the Subtreasury, rendered by your present clerks; but if you could get a separate clerk at $800 it would be better.

The Secretary's instructions of the 9th of July tell you explicitly to ~~charge~~ debit yourself with all sums received on account of the Treasurer of the United States, and credit yourself with all payments made by his order, and no other. — I warn you not to be led astray by this ~~order~~ instruction. You are, or will be, subsequently told to ~~open~~ the account thus:

Dr. The Treasurer of the U.S., in account with the Treasurer of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, (acting as Subtreasurer,) Cr. ~~x~~ ~~from~~

Whence you see that you are, in fact, to debit and credit the Treasurer of the U.S., and not yourself.

I have, on my application to this effect, received instructions, which are extended also to your Mint, authorising the recoinage of all deposites of foreign coins made in the subtreasury. The ~~Loss~~ Profit and Loss Account is, however, as in the case of your own Mint funds, to be a Mint and not a Subtreasury account, as the nominal amount, by tale, of this last, is not to be changed. I will send you, with the other forms, that which we have adopted for the Warrant to be employed in this case.

8
51
59

R. M. P.
D

To/
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasurer of Branch Mint,
New Orleans.

P.S. – The word say, introduced into your Monthly Statements, gives to the items an air of supposition, as if they were fictitious examples in a formula of accounts; and I suppose this may, in fact, be its origin, and that it may have been derived from us. Let me suggest the propriety of omitting it henceforward.

To/

H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasr. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Aug. 12. 1840.

Mint U. S.
Aug. 12/ 41.

Sir,

Your report for July was received by me this morning. It is quite satisfactory, although we have to regret the accident which diminished the amount of gold coinage.

The 7th Sect of the act of May 19th, 1828, authorises the assay, at the Mint, of bullion not intended for coinage, at rates of charge and under regulations to be established by the Director. At this Mint it has not been judged expedient to take advantage of the authority thus granted. It has been deemed ~~a boo~~ ~~improper~~ unadvisable to introduce any system of perquisites, for officers or men; — ~~any allowance, of any kind, for work done in the Mint~~ and to ask extra ~~official~~ duties of either, without extra pay, would be ~~equally~~ hardly improper. In some cases, of interest, assays are made here for individuals, but this is rare, and no charge has ever been made. Such is the course and such has been the feeling at this Mint. I do not know, however, that a different course may not be advisable at your institution. To be satisfied on this point, I would be glad to be informed what are the kind of assays asked for at your mint.

Are they of bullion, or of silver plate? Are they asked for by the workers in silver & gold, and, if so, do they ask for a stamp to authenticate the quality? I have reason to believe that the ~~act~~ law, in question, was intended to apply to this kind of business. If there is a prospect of business enough, of this kind, to make ~~the pursuit~~ it worth Dr. Hort's pursuing, I would be glad to know what charge, per assay, would, in his judgment pay for the labor & expense, and what proportion should go to the Mint for the materials used. I have not given this matter consideration, because our Assayers have objected to the introduction of extra-monetary assays.

I should add, that we are frequently called upon for analyses of ores, and that they are sometimes made. But this is always at the free choice of the Assayers, ~~and without charge~~ and is ~~not~~ considered extra-~~un~~official labor.

R. M. P.
D

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

P. S. — I wrote the above without having your letter before me, and I now find, on a reperusal of it, that I had not a correct impression of the question proposed by Dr. Hort. I am quite surprised to learn that he is troubled with private assays to such an extent as to make the cost to the Mint, "by no means inconsiderable." This ought not to be, for his own sake; and it is certainly in his own power to prevent it. I am still desirous to have a reply to my inquiries, although they were made under a wrong impression as to the proposal made by Dr. Hort.

To/

H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas.r Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Aug. 12. 1840.

(Copy)

U. States Br. Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, August 13th 1840

Dear Sir

We have in the Mint only one sett of weights, for the use of all the Officers, which causes great trouble, inconvenience, and frequent delay in the operations, besides subjecting us to inaccuracies, by having them at the disposal of so many different persons. I therefore beg to ask you, to request another sett to be sent for the use of this Mint.

The law of 19. May 1828, requires, that the weights employed in the transactions of the Mint, shall be regulated at least once a year, and their accuracy tested in the presence of the Assay Commissioners, on the day of annual assay. I infer, therefore, that the weights now here, will have to be sent to Philadelphia, which will render it necessary to procure new ones.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
(Signed) H. C. Cammack
Treasurer

Joseph M. Kennedy Esq
Supt U. S. Br. Mint

From
H. Cammack, Esq.
Treasurer Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Aug. 13/40.

Forwarded by Superintendent,
and rec^d Aug. 25th.

(No. 2.)

(Copy)

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans - Coiner's Office
July 18. 1840

To/
J. M. Kennedy Esq
Superintendent.

Sir,

Agreeable to your request, I have worked as far as practicable the gold in my possession, and find that the experiments reported to you, were a fair test of its ductility. About one half was rejected in the first operation of rolling; the best of the remainder being selected in the subsequent operations there remained sufficient to make about $ 8000, which was attended with much trouble and waste through every operation.

very respectfully
your faithful Servant
Signed - P. B. Tyler
Coiner.

From
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Aug. 14/40.

Rec'd. 25th.

No. 2.

One carboy of pure nitric acid."

very respectfully your
Obedt. Servt.

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint of
the U. S.
Phila.

J. M. Kennedy

P.S. I also enclose a copy of a note just recd from Mr. Cammack in relation to our weights—

I cannot now anticipate that our gold coinage will suffer any farther interruption. 40.000 Dollars have already been coined this month. This fact should go far, I think, towards inducing you to overlook our recent difficulties in that respect. I hope that my sending you copies of the reports which I recd from Mr. Tyler during the existence of those difficulties, will not have the effect of preventing so desirable a termination of them. Justice alone to Mr. T. has induced me to counteract, as far as it was in my power, whatever injury he might sustain, by an ex parte representation.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans August 14. 1840

Sir,

I offer the following explanation, and enclosed reports from the Coiner in reply to the inquiries in your letter of the 30th ult:

1840 - 16 May . 1593 oz of gold delivered to the Coiner.
" 19 May . Returned entire (cracked in rolling)
" 29 May . 1947 oz gold } Delivered to Coiner
" 9 June . 1266 do - do }
" 15 June both deliveries returned entire (cracked in rolling)

The _two first_ were the Melts which gave rise to that part of my letter to you of the 5th of June mentioning the conflicting opinions of the Melter and Coiner "in relation to the working of the gold, and," the "unsuccessful attempts to roll which are des=cribed by Mr. Tyler". The third had not at that time (as you will perceive by the dates) been delivered.

On the 20th of June there was another delivery of _2302_ oz of gold. (It was _this_ melt from which the 8500 $ were coined) On that day I wrote Mr Tyler the following note.

"If you find that the gold which was
"delivered to you this morning *will not work*
"it is my wish that you should make
"no trial beyond the 10th ingot. If a contra=
"=ry result can be produced, even at the
"cost of a little *extra* pains or trouble,
"you will much oblige me by taking it."

I recd on the 23d of the same month from Mr Tyler the report marked No 1.

It was at this stage of the matter, that I at first thought of having some experiments tried with the gold, in my presence. I afterwards abandoned the idea for the reason I have already given you, and, as we had some gold certificates out which I was anxious to pay off, I requested Mr Tyler to see, whether he could do any thing with the balance of the melt which *had remained* in *his possession*, and had *not* been rejected, as the Secretary of the Treasury has been informed. After having done so, he sent me the report marked No 2. The Secretary's informant might have been set right in this matter upon application to the Melter & Refiner himself, for, of the first report, I allowed that Officer to take a copy, and, the contents of the second I communicated to him verbally. In the two, you will, I think find answers to all your inquiries to which I have not directly replied.

I have read to Dr. Riddell that part of your letter of the 30th ulto which relates to your mode of casting quarter eagle ingots. To my question whether he was in the habit of "Stopping the work in the midst, covering "up the pots and increasing the heat of the "Metal" he replied that he did not do so, because his melts were small. This circumstance then could not have been attended to in the Melt from which the $850. were coined.

Dr. Hort has requested me to say to you, that he wants for his Department "One clay oven; a machine such as is used "in Philadelphia for agitating, for in this "climate the Springs are continually giving "way, causing a great expense, and

One carboy of pure nitric acid."

very respectfully your
Obedt Servt
J. M. Kennedy

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint of
the U. S.
Phila.

P. S. I also enclose a copy of a note just recd from Mr. Cammack in relation to our weights—

I cannot now anticipate that our gold coinage will suffer any farther interruption. 40.000 Dollars have already been coined this month. This fact should go far, I think, towards inducing you to overlook our recent difficulties in that respect. I hope that my sending you copies of the reports which I recd from Mr. Tyler during the existence of those difficulties, will not have the effect of preventing so desirable a termination of them. Justice alone to Mr. T. has induced me to counteract, as far as it was in my power, whatever injury he might sustain, by an ex parte representation.

Mint of the United States,
Aug. 20, 1840.

Sir,

I send, by the present Mail, to the Secretary of the Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his frank, a box containing One pair of Half-dollar dies. There are now ready for your Mint another pair of ½ dollar dies, — 2 pairs of dime, & 2 pairs of ½ dime dies: these will be transmitted, in the same way, by the next three Mails.

I have ~~the pleasure~~ to thank you for ~~your~~ the copy of your communication to the Secretary of the Treasury, on the subject of the expenditures at your Mint. I am always glad to be made acquainted with these matters, though my responsibility in the case is only indirect.

R. M. P.
Dir

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Aug. 20. 1840.

Mint of the United States,
Aug. 20. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of ~~enclosing~~ sending, by the present mail, to your address, a box of dies, directed on the inner envelope to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to be forwarded under your frank. Three ~~Three more boxes for the same Mint will be transmitted by the next three next mails.~~ more will be transmitted by the ~~[illegible]~~ next three mails.

R. M. P.
Dir

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

To/
Sec. of Treasury,

Aug. 20. 1840.

United S. Branch Mint New Orleans
Treasurer's Office Augt 23. 1840

Dear Sir

permit me to introduce to your acquaintance Dr J. L. Riddell, melter & Refiner of this Mint. who leaves here this day for the purpose of making you a visit at Philadelphia.

Dr. Riddell is so well known to you by reputation that I deem it useless to say more.

The operations of the Mint for some weeks past have been conducted with pleasantness & success. The Coinage has been up to this time

31.000 in Silver and
40.000 in Gold.

Referring you to Dr Riddel for particulars of our establishment here

I remain
most faithfully yours
H Cammack
Treasr.

To
Dr R M Patterson

(From)
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasurer of Br. Mint,
New Orleans,
Aug. 23/41.
Recd. Sep. 4.

September 1840

Mint U.S. —

Aug. 25/40.

Sir,

In a letter to me, of the 27th ult., you advert to the ~~circumstance~~ assertion that ~~the Coiner~~ Mr. Tyler, of the New Orleans Mint, had ~~coined~~ succeeded in rolling and coining bars of a melt which he had before rejected as brittle, and which had been the cause of the difficulty between him and Dr. Riddell. In my answer to your letter, I mentioned that I would enquire into this matter, of the Superintendent. I now send you a copy of his reply, which exculpates the Coiner in the fullest manner, by showing that the ingots rolled were *not* of either of the *two melts* which gave rise to the dispute ~~between him & the Melter & Refiner~~, or of a subsequent *third* melt which had also been rejected, but made *part* of a *fourth* melt, which had never been returned or rejected. It thus appears ~~that an attempt was made to deceive you, for the purpose of injuring Mr. Tyler in your opinion.~~ that the ground taken as proof of Mr. Tyler's incapacity or unfairness, and which was ~~so calculated~~ used to injure him in your opinion, was utterly without foundation.

R. M. P.

D. M.

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

Aug 25/40.

(Copy)

Assayer's Office Br. M. N.O.
28 August 1840.

Sir

In reply to your communication of yesterday's date I would observe, that the assays chiefly asked for at this Mint, and not in the regular routine of business, are assays of the great variety of mineral ores found in the mountainous ranges bounding the valley of the Mississippi: they have been brought or sent from every State and Territory on both sides of the river, from Iowa & Wisconsin in the North, to Louisiana in the South — In analysing these ores Copper, Iron, Lead, Zinc, Tin, Antimony, Plumbago &c have been discovered, and some of them, particularly the ores of Copper Lead and Tin were found to be unusually rich. One specimen of gold embedded in Quartz from the Ozark Mountains in Arkansaw was brought here, and a richer specimen I think think was never seen. Silver has been discovered in several of the specimens, but in too small a quantity to be of value. Silver plate has been brought here, in two instances only; it had just been received from New York, and fraud was suspected. A certificate of the Standard was given with my Signature, but no stamp was asked for, or used.

Considering the importance of developing the immense mineral resources of the Western Country, and such anxiety on the Subject being manifested by the inhabitants, it occurred to me that nothing would tend to make this Mint so popular as to gratify them on this Subject, and from the commencement of the Operations here in 1838, I have never refused to make an analysis of any metallic or mineral substance that was brought to the Mint, always giving a written statement of the result with my Signature as Assayer of the Mint.

But these assays are often difficult, tedious and troublesome, occupying considerable time, they cost more than any of the processes employed in the regular operations of the Mint, for it is necessary to use a great many re-agents, besides the consumption of fuel and waste of acids, & they have increased so much of late, that I have no hesitation in saying, that whoever attends to the business, ought to be compensated, and that the United States should be reimbursed to the amount of the actual expense incurred - That the Act of the 19th May 1828 Sec 7. refers directly to this subject, I have not the smallest doubt. In conversing in relation to this matter with Dr. Riddell, and with a Frenchman who is a private Assayer, I have concluded that the charges should vary from $5 to $10 - the amount charged, in every instance, to be equally divided between the person making the analysis & the Mint. Many instances must occur in which it would be improper to make any charge, as when an ignorant person has been deceived, and it can be ascertained in one or two minutes that no analysis is necessary.

With great respect
Yr. obt. Servt.
Signed = Wm. P. Hort. Assayr.

P.S. Persons who have brought ores here for analysis have uniformly expected to pay and have tendered payment, although as yet nothing has been demanded.

Sig. H.

Jo: M Kennedy Esq.
Supt. U.S. B. Mint
N. Orleans

(Copy.)
From Dr. Holt to
Mr. Kennedy.
Aug. 28/60.

Treasurers Office U. S. Br. Mint
New orleans August 30. 1840

Sir

I have received your letter of 12th, which came to hand some days ago, and I thank you for the trouble you are taking, to assist me in establishing my Sub-treasury accounts, books &c.

Thus far I have kept every thing Connected with my new duties, in all respects, distinct from from the Mint. I have no instructions yet as to Clerks, porters, Stationary &c, and thus far I have got on with the assistance only of the Clerks & porters belonging to the Mint.–

In a day or two I will furnish estimates for building the strong vaults which we are required to have Constructed. The vaults of this Mint, with the exception of one, cased inside with iron by Mr Forstall, are very insecure. The walls are a brick and a half thick, and are built with Common brick and Common mortar.– An architect, who examined them the other day, remarked that he could cut through any of them, in two hours time, with a jack knife.

I have written to Mr Woodbury to ask him to permit three additional men to be engaged, on account of the Sub Treasury, in the night watch. The

The Space to be guarded is so great that not less than three men can watch it successfully; and these remain on duty from 5. in the evening untill the next ~~day~~ morning when relieved by the day watch.

The men we have are good & faithful men. but the duty is too hard. already have three men died in the service - others have left with constitutions ruined, and these we have here are suffering from the exposure. The square on which the building is placed is inclosed by a low slight iron railing which can be vaulted, by expert individuals, with but little trouble.

Dr Riddell left here last sunday and will be with you, no doubt, some days before the present reaches you.

The mint has stopped and all are busy in repairing, cleaning up &c. We have paid all of our depositors except three (amounting to $305.03). who are out of town, and I have on hand in

Silver coins ____ about ____ $4000
Gold coins ____ " ____ 35.000

I thank you for the hint about the word "say" I had not noticed it. It appears in the formula which you sent us and Mr Weickes copied it.

I am with great respect
Your most faithful servant
A.L. Cammack
Treasurer

To
Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U.S. Mint

From/
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasr. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Aug. 30.
Recd Sept. 11. 1840.

Doctor R. M. Patterson
Director of the U. S. Mint
Philadelphia.

SEP
1

From /
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Sept. 1.
Recd " 11. 1840.

(Report for August.)

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Sept. 1. 1840

Sir;

I enclose our Statement for August, and have the honor to be

Very respectfully
Your obedt. Servt.
J M Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqre.
Director of the Mint
of the U. S.
Phila.

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of August 1840

Deposites

Kind of Deposites	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces	dec	Ounces	dec	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:										
Foreign Bullion	549	10	11	592	215	66	215	26		
Foreign Coins	359	71	349	571	6503	63	6503	63		
									6.719	29
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion	549	10	557	03	648	18	626	22		
Foreign Coins	16.614	95	16.495	48	19194	61	19184	39		
									19.842	79
Total deposites									26.562	08

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:					
Half Eagles	8.000	40.000	00		
				40.000	00
Silver:					
Half Dollars	47.500	23.750	00		
Quarter Dollars	75.000	18.750	00		
Dimes	60.000	6.000	00		
Half Dimes	90.000	4.500	00		
				53.000	00
	280,500				
Total Coinage				93.000	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office, August 31st 1840.

H. C. Cammack
Treasurer

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Sept 5th 1840.

Sir,

We have recd. all the dies mentioned in your letter of the 20th ulto. to wit: 2 pr. of 1/2 dollar, 2 pr. of dime and 2 pr. of 1/2 dime dies.

I inclose a copy of a communication from Dr. Hort, in reply to one from me making the inquiries contained in your letter of the 12th ulto. relative to the private assays asked for at our Mint. It will give you all the information you desire upon that subject.

In a letter which I recd. yesterday from the Secretary of the Treasury, he says " It has been intimated
" to this Department, that much dissatisfaction has
" been expressed by the depositors of small sums
" for recoinage with the Branch Mint at New
" Orleans. They complain that their claims for
" repayment are postponed in favor of larger
" depositors." I can assure you, that for these complaints, there is not the slightest foundation.

Mr. Woodbury adds that "the safest rule to be
" adopted, and adhered to rigidly, would seem to
" be, to pay for deposites in the order in which they
" are ~~paid~~ made." This has been our almost uniform

practice, as the records of the Mint will show. Whenever this rule, which is to be found in our instructions from you, has been deviated from at all / which has very rarely happened / it has been in favor of the "*small*" and not the "*larger* depositors". This fact our books will also substantiate. The truth is, that our largest depositors have, in almost every case been the *Banks*. Their deposites have been in many instances, made at the request either of Cammack or myself, with a view of preventing any interruption in our coinage for the want of bullion. For repayment, they have generally expressed a willingness to wait our convenience and out of the amount received from *their* deposites, it has not been unfrequently the case, that "*small depositors*", *after* them in point of date of deposite, have been paid first.

Our Mint suspended on the 26th ult., to resume again on the 1st of Oct. After paying every cent that we owe, we have a balance, in silver coin, of between three and four thousand dollars, and in gold coin, of upwards of *thirty* thousand. I am very respectfully, Sir,

Yr. obedt. Servt.

J. M. Kennedy

Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqre

Director of the Mint of the U. S.

Phila.

From / Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Sep. 6 / 40.

Rec.d 19th.

Copy of letter from Dr. Hort, enclosed.

(Copy)

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans - Coiner's office Sep.
9th 1840.

To J. M. Kennedy Esq
Supt.

Sir,

Among the difficulties which I have had to encounter in the Machinery of my department, the coining presses have been the principal source of trouble owing to some imperfections in their construction. I have been informed by the Director, as well as from other sources that many improvements have been made in the presses at Philada. so as to obviate most of the difficulties to which they were at first liable. I had looked forward with much anxiety to the time of suspension this Summer, with the view of going to Philada. for the purpose of examining fully the improvements they have made, as also of getting such other information as their long experience and abundant facilities would offer me. But as I am necessarily detained here on account of the Machinery, during the only time

I could have expected to visit Philada; I have to request that you will employ my Brother (who is now at the North) to spend 15 or 20 days in the Philada. Mint, and collect such information as the Director may think of the most importance to me. I propose this course as possessing much utility, from the fact of my brother's having been employed as foreman of my department during the past year, and of his expectation to bring his family out and remain here in the same capacity in future; besides he is a very competent person, and I know of no way by which the information we require could be so directly applied to the benefit of the Institution — It will be necessary to make some purchases in Philada. of files, steel &c, and if you think well of employing my Brother there he can make such selections as will best suit —

You can hear from him by addressing

Nelson Tyler
Springfield
Mass.

Very respectfully
Your faithful servant
signed P. B. Tyler
Coiner

(Copy.)

From/ Philos B. Tyler,
Coiner
To/ Jos. M. Kennedy
Supt.
of New Orleans Mint
Sep. 9/40.
Recd at Phila 24th.

NEW ORLEANS – 1840 (CONT.)

Mint U.S.
Sept. 12, 1848.

Sir,

The transmission of the Monthly report of the operations of the Branch Mints presents a suitable occasion for noticing certain accusations ~~with regard to~~ touching the New Orleans Mint, and particularly its Treasurer, which I am told by Col. Wheeler were lately made before him by the Hon. Mr. Benton, and with regard to which I am convinced that this statesman has been deceived.

A general assertion was that the ~~operations~~ coinage of the N.O. Mint fell far short of the amount that was justly expected of it. In one sense this is true, and the assertion, I am sorry to say, may now be extended to the Philadelphia Mint. But I understand it to have been implied that this deficiency was owing to negligence or design on the part of the officers. The ~~test~~ truth of this accusation is tested at once by comparing the coinage with the deposites, and a simple inspection of the monthly reports will show that the coinage keeps up with the deposites very satisfactorily: so that the officers are exculpated completely, for over the amount of the deposites they have no direct control. In the report sent to you to-day, you will observe that the coinage amounts to $93,000, and the deposits to only $26,563.

Some one has informed Mr. Benton that Mr. Cammack suffers the Mint Certificates to be protested for non-payment, and that this is a frequent occurrence, greatly injuring the reputation of the Mint. Mr. Benton is doubly deceived. I have the best reason for knowing that deposits are paid with satisfactory promptitude at the N.O. Mint. It is frequently reported that they owe nothing on this account, and in a letter received yesterday, with their monthly report, it is stated that all deposits are paid, except $305.03 uncalled for, and that there are on hand $4000 in silver coin and $35,000 in gold coin. — It is true that N.O. Mint certificates were formerly protested, but this mortifying circumstance was owing to the disasters that occurred under the first régime of the Mint. — But another point in which Col. Benton has been deceived is in supposing that the Treasurer was the officer to bear the blame if the Mint did not redeem its certificates. On the contrary, this officer has no control over the coinage, an unnecessary delay in which must be blamed ~~either~~ upon the Melter & Refiner, or the Coiner, or both.

When facts are shown to be unfounded, it is not perhaps necessary to look into the motives to which they have been ascribed; yet it may not be improper to ~~say~~ add that my informant tells me that Mr. Benton had been led to believe that Mr. Cammack kept back the payments, because he was concerned in a brokering establishment, and it was his interest to make Specie scarce. Dr. Riddell, who is now, as you know, at this Mint, ~~a a se~~ assures me that Mr. Cammack has no connection with any Broker's office.

You are aware that Mr. Cammack was introduced into the N. O. Mint on the recommendation of the U. S. District Attorney Mr. ~~Riddell~~ Slidell, who had, and I believe deserved, the confidence of the government. I feel no peculiar responsibility, therefore, with regard to his appointment; but it would be ignoble in me to look quietly on, while I believed injustice to be done to a faithful and efficient officer.

My impression is that the New Orleans Mint is now under the charge of competent men, and that we may confidently look to a satisfactory execution of its functions for the future. There was some difficulty from the inexperience of the Melter & Refiner and the Coiner, but I am convinced that this is now at an end. The visit of Dr. Riddell to this Mint has given him much important information.

NO

(To)
Sec. of Treasury.
Sept. 12. 1840.

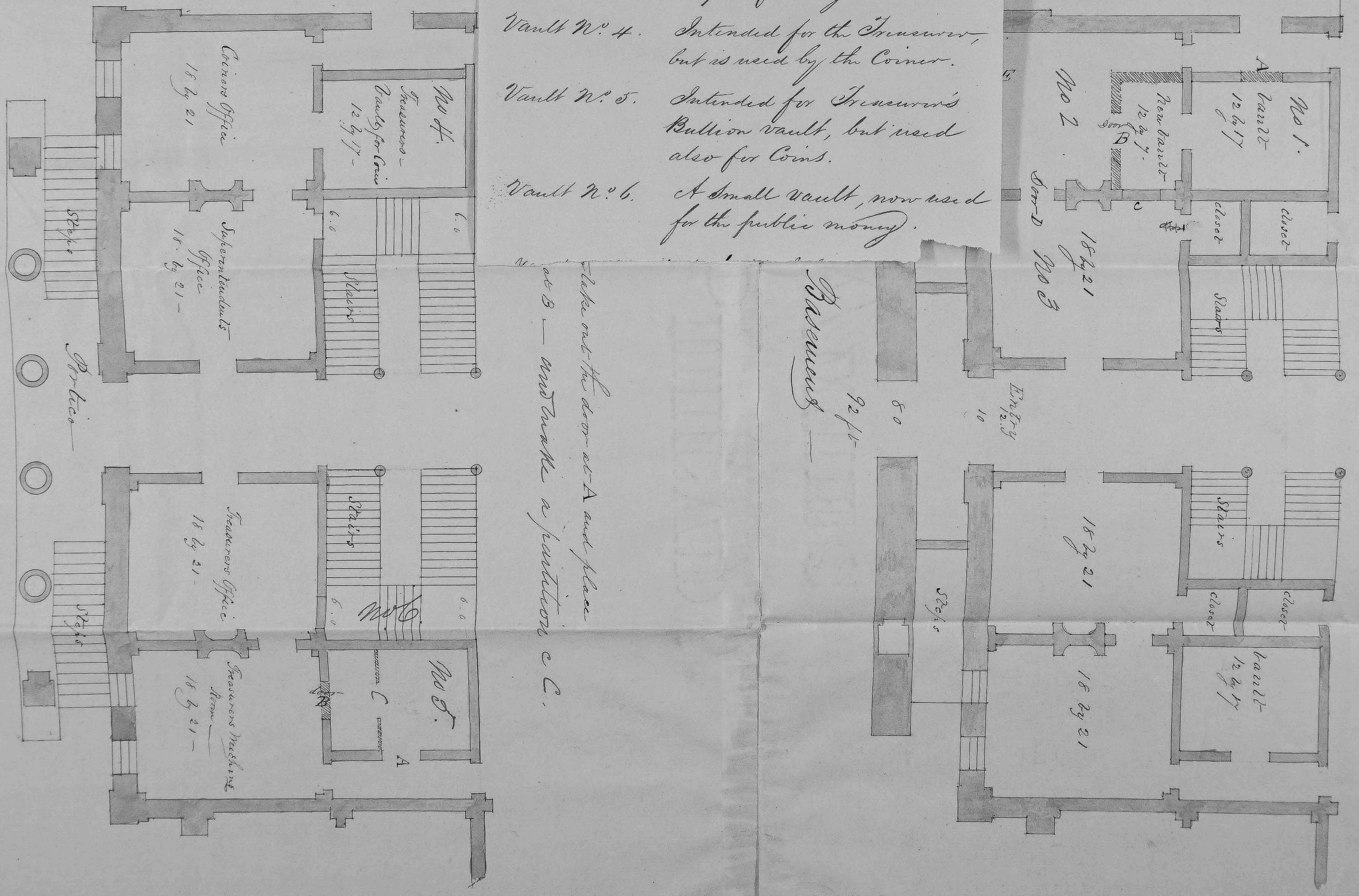
Vault No. 1 & Rooms 2 & 3 } Now used for Coal Depot for Engine.

Vault No. 4. Intended for the Treasurer, but is used by the Coiner.

Vault No. 5. Intended for Treasurer's Bullion vault, but used also for Coins.

Vault No. 6. A small vault, now used for the public money.

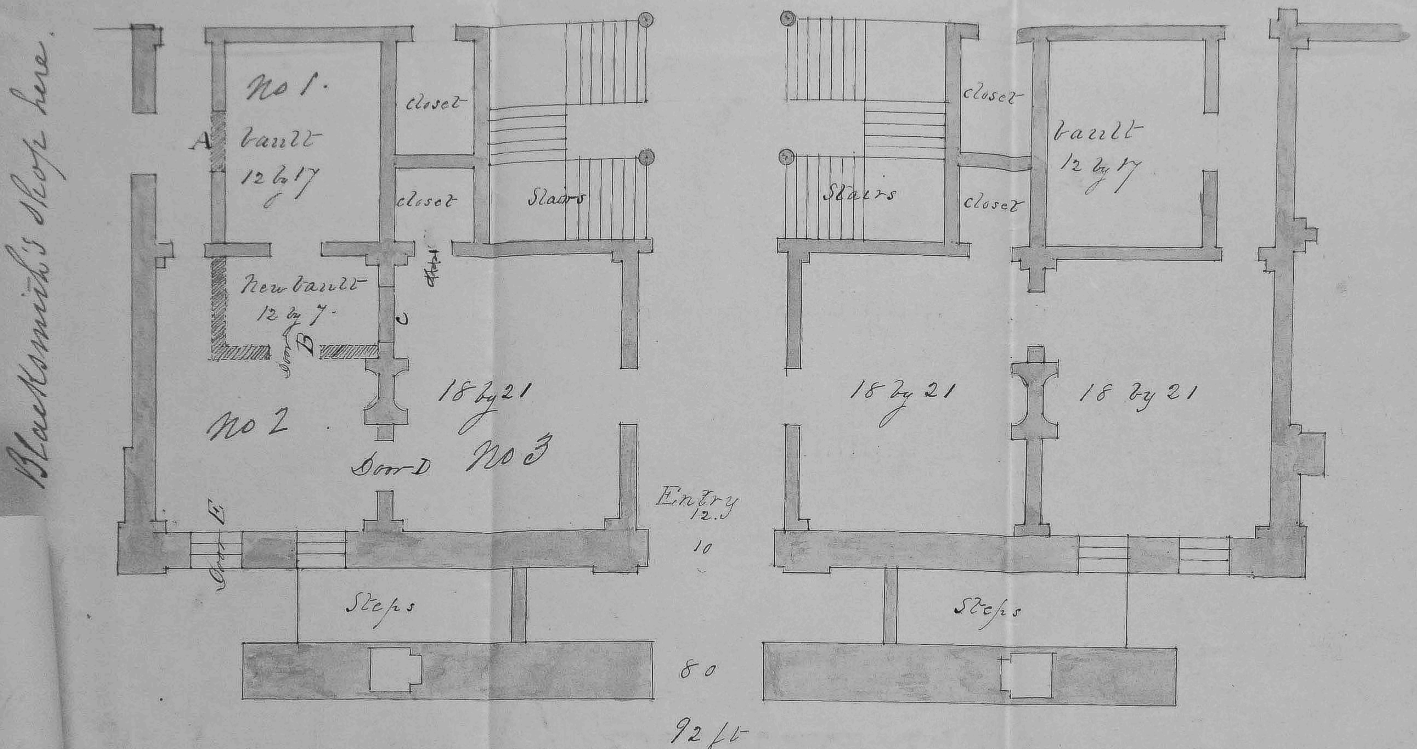
Blacksmith's shop here.


Coiners Office
18 by 21
No 4.
Treasurers Vaults for Coin
12 by 7
Superintendents Office
18 by 21
Steps
Stairs
6.6
Portico
Principal Story
Treasurers Office
18 by 21
Treasurers Melting Room
18 by 21
No 6
No 5
door
C
A
Passage
92 ft
80
10
Entry
12.9
No 1.
Vault
12 by 17
New Vault
12 by 7
door
B
C
No 2
Door D
No 3
Closet
Closet
18 by 21
Stairs
Steps
Vault
12 by 17
18 by 21

Take out the door at A and place at B — and make a partition at C.

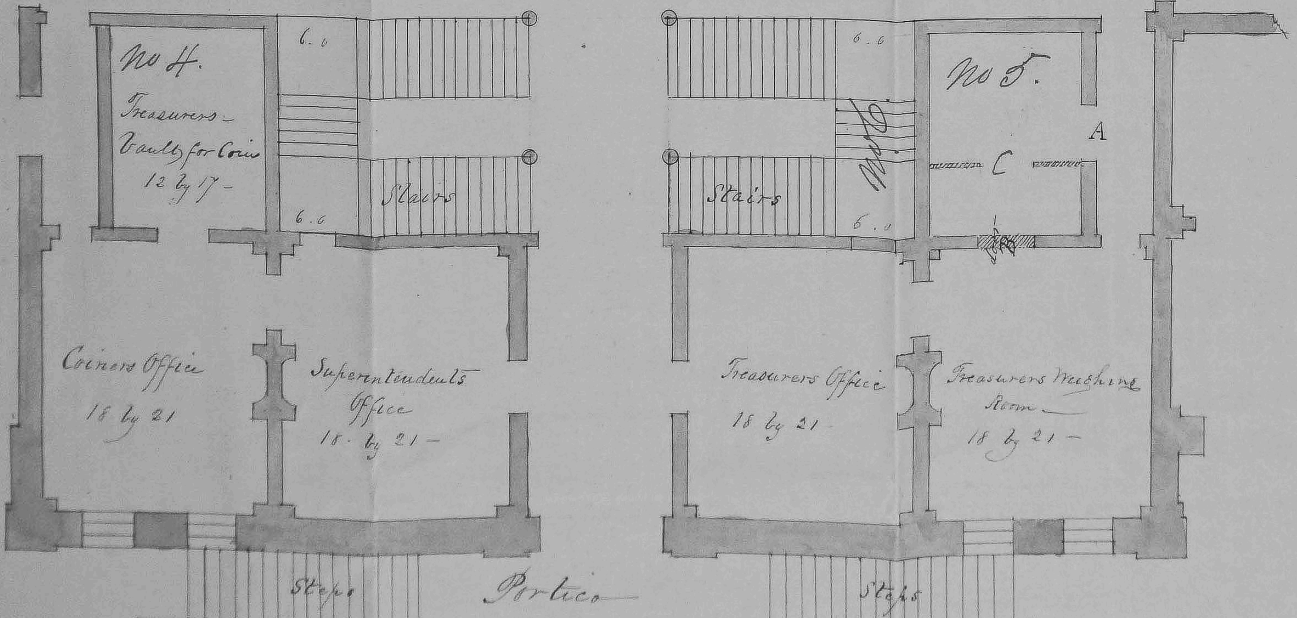
It is proposed to take out the doors which are at present in the walls at A & C and set them in the places marked B & D the new entrance doorway would be made instead of the window at A. &c —

It is proposed to take out the doors which are at present in the wall at A & C and set them in the places marked B & D
The new entrance doorway would be made instead of the window at E. —


Blacksmith's Shop here
No 1.
A
vault
12 by 17
closet
closet
Stairs
New vault
12 by 7.
C
B
Door
No 2
18 by 21
No 3
Door D
E
Door
Entry
12.3
10
Steps
80
92 ft
closet
closet
Stairs
vault
12 by 17
18 by 21
18 by 21
Steps

Basement —

It is proposed to take out the door at A and place it in the wall at B — and make a partition c C.


No 4.
Treasurers Vault for Coin
12 by 17 —
6.0
6.0
Stairs
Coiners Office
18 by 21
Superintendents Office
18 by 21 —
Steps
Portico
Steps
Stairs
6.0
6.0
No 5.
A
C
B
Treasurers Office
18 by 21
Treasurers Weighing Room
18 by 21 —

Principal Story —

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Sep 13 - 1840

Sir,

You will find enclosed a copy of a communication to me from our Coiner. Mr. Nelson Tyler, of whom he speaks, has already been employed as foreman of the Coining department, and his services therein were highly valuable. It would give me great satisfaction to see him return to the Mint in the same capacity, but, the request made in the communication aforementioned, I must leave to you.

He would no doubt not only require his salary to commence with the date of his engagement (which wd. be proper enough) but would also expect his passage out here to be paid by the Mint. This I will not take it upon myself to authorize. If you should come to the conclusion, for the reasons given by Mr. Tyler, to accede to his request, you wd. much oblige me by writing to his brother yourself. From him, if you think proper, you might previously learn his terms.

I am very respectfully
Yr. Obd. Servt.
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esquire –
Director of the Mint of the U. S.

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Sep. 13/40.

Rec? 24th.

Treasurer's Office U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans September 12th 1840

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of 19th & 24th August.

Enclosed herewith, I send you an estimate of expenses to be incurred under the 14th Section of the Act of 4 July 1840, for the quarter ending 30th instant.

I feel very much embarrassed as to the Clerks it will be necessary to employ, in consequence of the additional duties to be performed by me, as depositary of the public moneys, owing to the inadequacy of the Salaries allowed by the law. For the pay of eight hundred dollars per annum, I cannot secure the services of capable and trustworthy persons, and I am at a loss what to do. Thus far, the business has been done by the Clerks & porters attached to the Mint. The Salary paid to the Clerks now in the Mint is small, and is less than young men of their capacity usually receive in other employ, and if there is no objection to their receiving additional pay under the Independent Treasury Bill, for services, I could arrange by having the Salaries of two Clerks allowed to this Office, the one to be paid to the best person to be procured for that sum, and the other to be left to me to be paid as I may think best to the present Clerks for extra services. I have asked in the estimate which I send $266.67 for two Clerks from 1st August. This is subject to your approbation and advice. The Treasurer's Clerk & the weigh-master have performed the duties, and if you think it proper, I will be glad they may be paid.

Enclosed I hand you also, estimate for Securing and building Vaults, together with a plan Shewing the Contemplated changes and additions. There are two Estimates, one for the Vaults on the basement Story, and the other on the Second floor. It will be much more convenient to have the Vaults on the Second floor if practicable, as all the other business of the Treasurer is conducted in that Story; but such I fear cannot be done, for though there are Vaults enough in this Story, there is no room that could be used without interfering with some of the other Offices, for receiving, paying & counting money, except the weighing room, which is not calculated for more than the ordinary operations of the Mint. The Vaults on the ground floor, although dark, damp and unpleasant, can be made large and strong, and it is the opinion of the Superintendent that they should be Selected.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
H. Cammack

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Secy of the Treasury

Dear Sir

Annexed I hand you copy of a letter which I have written to the Secretary of the Treasury and enclosed with the present is copy of the plan referred to therein.

I send you these because I believe that you will be gratified to know what I am doing and because you can perhaps assist me with your advice.

Will you be kind enough to inform me what alterations have been made in Philadelphia and what vaults & rooms are used by the Treasurer for keeping the public moneys.

I am very truly
Yr faithful & Obt St
A. L. Cammack

Treasurer's Office Branch Min
New Orleans 15 Septr

To
Dr R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint

From/

H. C. Cammack, Esq.,
Treas. Br. Mint,
New-Orleans.
Sept. 15.
Rec'd " 26. 1840.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia. Sep. 16, 1840.

Sir,

Dr. Riddell has finished his visit at Philadelphia, and now sets out on his return to New Orleans, by the way of Washington, where he will see you. His stay at our Mint has, I am sure, been of the greatest importance to him in connexion with his Official duties at New Orleans, and will be favorably felt in the future operations at the Mint there.

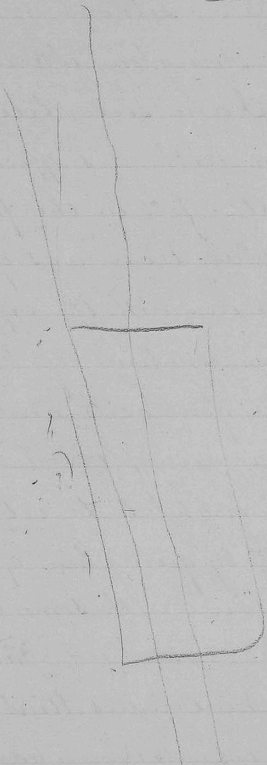
When leave was given him to make a visit to our institution, it was with the express stipulation that his expenses were to be borne by himself. He can therefore present no claim except on the generosity and sense of justice of the Department. But on a review of the whole case, I am disposed to think that these ought to be extended to him. His visit was for the public benefit, by giving him opportunities of acquiring a practical acquaintance with some essential operations which he could not otherwise have obtained. The same opportunity was given to other Officers of the New Orleans Mint, — to the Assayer for example, — and their traveling expenses were paid. In considering this question it should not be forgotten that the salaries of the Officers at the New Orleans Mint are very low for so expensive a city.

Very Respectfully
Your faithful Servant
R. M. P.

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treas.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

Ap. 16/40.



Mint U.S.
Sept. 24/40.

Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 18th inst., inclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Tyler, on the subject of a proposed visit to be made to this Mint by his brother Nelson. I shall write to this gentleman immediately, and mention the proposition to him; but a decision lately made by the Secretary of the Treasury forbids any allowance being made, ~~for be to workman~~ for travelling expenses, to workmen engaged for the Mints.

The most important improvement introduced into our coining presses is the spring collar, which I understand to be already adopted at your Mint. We have also ~~dispensed~~ made a substitute for the counterweight in two of our presses, but the counterweight is still used in the other two, and they operate perfectly well.

We have no funds for the expenses incurred here for your Mint, and we already owe on your account $ 98.92.
Articles now ordered for your Mint will cost nearly $ 600 more.
Please to procure for us a remittance of ~~about~~ at least $ 700.—

R. M. P.

Jos. M. Kennedy Esq.
Supt. B. Mint
N. Orleans

To/

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Sept. 24. 1840.

Mint U.S.

Sept. 24/41.

Sir,

By ~~a~~ letters just received from the New Orleans Mint, I learn that it is the wish of Mr. Kennedy and your brother that you should be again employed ~~engaged~~ in that establishment, and ~~they~~ think it desirable that you should spend a few days at this Mint, on your road. You might, by so doing, get some information that would be useful, and I need hardly say that every opportunity ~~will of doing so~~ will be cheerfully afforded to you here.

~~The question is~~ Mr. Kennedy says he thinks it just that your pay should count from the time of your accepting your engagement, and setting out for its fulfilment, but he refers to me the question of your travelling expenses. I have to state that this point has been settled by the Secretary of the Treasury, who has decided, in a recent case, that travelling expenses shall not be allowed to workmen engaged for the Mints.

R. M. P.
Director.

To/
Mr. Nelson Tyler.
Springfield,
Mass.

To/
Mr. Nelson Tyler,
Springfield,
Mass.

Sept. 24. 1840.

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans Sept. 24th 1840.

To I. M. Kennedy Esqr
Superintendent

Sir

The articles which I propose to purchase in Philadelphia are as follows,

Carter & Harris	1 Bar of Cast Steel 3 inches Square 1 " " " " 3 " by 1 An assortment of Small Sizes flat, round & Square, amounting in all to about $25 ...... Say	$25.
Hill 12th & Market	3 doz. flat rough files, 10-12 & 13 inches ✓ 3 doz. 1/2 round do do 10-12 & 13 " 1/2 doz. flat Smooth do 13 " Also an assortment including some bastard cut 3 doz. Saw files, 4-6 & 8 inches. Some Small flat, round & half round Smooth files amounting to about $25. ...... Say	$ 25.
	3 or 400 pounds clean rags	20.
	✓ 50 feet of 4 inch belt — 1 side of belt leather	20.
Broad St.	An assortment of Emery paper	3.
	100 file handles	6.
McAllister	Small magnifying glass	1.
		$100.

It will soon be necessary to get a new supply of Rolls, as we have only one pair now, not in use. I should think it best to order 6 pairs which will cost ..... $240.

I shall send a memorandum

to my brother of such inquiries as I think most important in the Phil.a Mint

Very resp.y

Yr faithful Servt

Sig'd Philos B. Tyler

Copied

75
50
15
30
~~25~~
20
25
10
15
10
10

285
18

2280
285

51.30

Mint U.S.
Sept. 26/48.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., enclosing a copy of one to you from Dr. Hunt.

I am surprised to find that Dr. Hunt supposes the 7th section of the act of May 19th 1828 to have reference to the *analysis of ores*, when the terms of act are express, — that "it shall be lawful for the Director of the Mint to receive, and cause to be *assayed*, *bullion* not intended for coinage, and to cause certificates to be given of the *fineness* thereof." The circumstances which gave rise to this ~~act~~ enactment are known to us here, and it is certain that it has no ~~relation~~ reference to ~~all~~ *analyses of ores*.

Now I have no hesitation in saying that ~~the~~ analysis of minerals, as proposed by Dr. Hunt, cannot be considered a Mint operation; while it is perfectly right and very desirable that he, as an individual, should make them, if he is so disposed, and that he should be remunerated for his trouble and skill by a proper charge. On the part of the government there must be no charge; but Dr. Hunt will take care either not to use the materials belonging to the government, or to replace them, or to pay for them their just value.

I thank you for the explanations relative to ~~the St~~ small deposites. Some New Orleans Correspondents seem set upon doing all the mischief they can to your institution, and I have often to come out in your defence.

I have received this morning, a letter from Mr. Cammack (of the 16th inst.) on the subject of your arrangements for the Subtreasury, with a plan exhibiting the changes proposed in your building in order to accommodate it. It is difficult for me to form a correct estimate of the relative advantages of the two schemes; but, with my imperfect knowledge of the circumstances, I feel disposed to prefer the plan which places the Subtreasury in the principal story. My reasons are, first, that it is more safe to have all the vaults on the same floor, as they are more readily watched, and are ~~always~~ more constantly under the eye of the officers. Secondly, the Treasurer having to attend to the business, both of the Mint and the Subtreasury, it must be inconvenient to have the places of ~~doing~~ performing these functions so far separated. Thirdly, if the Mint Clerks, or any ~~Sh~~ of them, are to be employed also, ~~in part even,~~ in the Subtreasury, it will be almost ~~impossible~~ essential that the offices and vaults of ~~the~~ two departments be near to each other. I do not think that more than one Subtreasury clerk will be allowed, and I do not think it consistent even with security, that he should be placed in an office in the basement story, communicating directly out of doors, and far from the other offices and clerks.

Mr. Cammack asks me what ~~alterations~~ arrangements have been made here for the accommodation of the Subtreasury. I answer that our Coiner, Mr. Peale, gave up his ~~private~~ office in the principal story, and took one up stairs; and that he also gave up a part of his bullion vault, which was partitioned off, and has a door opening into the Subtreasury office. He also fitted up a large vault in the basement story, but ~~it~~ have not yet had occasion to use it.

I send enclosed the forms of warrant used for the recoinage of foreign coins belonging to the government.

P.S. – Please to send me as early ~~as possible,~~ your Estimates for 1841. I am called upon for them by the Treasury Department.

R. M. P.

D

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Sept. 26. 1840.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Oct 4. 1840

Sir,

I send you our statement for September which I recd. from the Treasurer yesterday. I also enclose a copy of a report from our Coiner enumerating certain articles that he will require for his Department, and stating their probable cost. For the payment of such of them as are to be purchased in Philadelphia, Mr. Cammack will, in a day or two, send you a check. Mr. Tylor informs me that it will be necessary to import the Rolls from England. Will you do me the favor to order them for us, with instructions to ship them to this Port.

Dr. Riddell is expected to day. We are now ready to recommence operations, with every thing in complete order.

Very respectfully
Yr. obedt. Servt.
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqr.
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Philada.

From
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Oct. 4. }
Rec'd " 15. } 1840.

(Report for September.)

October 1840

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of September 1840

Kind of Deposite	Deposites Gross Weight after melting Ounces	dec	Standard Weight Ounces	dec	Value before deductions Dollars	cts	Value after deductions Dollars	cts	Total Value before deductions Dollars	cts
Gold:										
None										
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion	229	55	249	44	290	25	289	51		
Foreign Coins	283	00	275	76	320	88	320	88		
									611	13
Total deposites									611	13

Coinage Denomination	Number of pieces	Value Dollars	cts	Total Value Dollars	cts
Gold:					
None					
Silver:					
None					

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, September 30th 1840
H. C. Cammack
Treasurer

Forwarding Bills of Lading Nos. 61 & 63.

Mint U.S.

Nov. 2d, 1840.

Sir, † (See below.)

On the 28th of Sept., I sent you a letter, (under date of the 24th,) replying to yours of the ~~14th~~ 6th on the subject of Extra Assays, — to Mr. Carmack's inquiries respecting the Subtreasury, — ~~and~~ sending a copy of our Profit & Loss Warrant for recoinage of foreign coins, — and lastly asking your Estimates for 1841, at as early a day as possible. I have not yet received an answer to this letter, and I am apprehensive of the same difficulties as to your estimates as were presented last year. Indeed, my general estimate~~s~~ for the Mint and its Branches, is detained now only for this essential document.

Very

R. M. P.

D.

To/

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.

Sup. Br. Mint,

New Orleans.

† I send herewith two Bills of Lading for articles shipped by us for the use of your Mint. Other articles ordered will be forwarded as soon as they are in readiness.

To/

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

&c.

Nov. 2. 1840.

November 1840

Branch Mint

New Orleans Nov. 4. 1840

Sir,

I have this moment received from Mr. Cammack the statement of our Operations for October which I hasten to enclose - Dr. Riddell's return to this did not take place until two weeks after the time I fixed at the period of his departure for Phil He was detained a considerable time in Louisvill by the low Stage of the Ohio river and was, at last compelled to cross over to St. Louis and come down the Mississippi:

My not having sent you sooner the Estimate our expenses for the year 1841, has been caused by a Severe indisposition, which has confined me for several days to my bed -

We have agreed upon it as follows:

Compensation to	Supt.	$2500	
" "	Treas.	2000	
" "	Assayer	2000	
" "	Melter & Refiner	2000	
" "	Coiner	2000	
" "	2 Clerks @ $1200 each	2400	12.900
Compensation to labourers in the various departments			21.000
Incidental & Contingent expenses including wastage of Gold and Silver			20.100
			$54.000

The incidental and contingent expenses for 184 were set down at $3000 less than we have este mated them at for the next year. This Sum will be required to cover the charge for wastage on gold and Silver, which will be increased in proportion to the increased coinage which is anticipated, and to make up any loss that may arise from the recoinage of the public monies, deposited in the Mint under the "Subtreasury Law"

I have requested the Secretary of the Treasury to remit you the sum of One thousand dollars for the payment of articles to be purchased by you for the use of our Mint.

I am very respectfully
Yr. Obdt. Servt.
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esquire
Director of the Mint
of the U. S.
Phila.

Kennedy, Esq.

t Br. Mint,

New Orleans.

.4.

16. 1840.

hort for October.)

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of October 1840.

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces	dw	Ounces	dw	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:										
Foreign Bullion	491	90	511	029	9.507	51	9484	99		
Foreign Coins	2.811	21	2.733	571	50.857	13	50.857	13		
									60.364	64
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion	1.255	20	1.311	53	1.526	14	1.520	09		
Foreign Coins	54.183	00	53.931	62	62.756	58	62.672	69		
									64.282	72
Total deposites									124.647	36

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:					
None					
Silver:					
Half Dollars	30.000	15.000	00		
Half Dimes	80.000	4.000	00		
				19.000	00
Total Coinage				19.000	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, October 31st 1840

H Cammack
Treasurer

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Nov 8. 1840

Sir,

You will much oblige me by sending us the following dies, which Mr. Tyler thinks will be sufficient for the remainder of the year 1840.

1 pr. 1/2 dollars with two extra tails
1 pr. 1/4 ditto, and
1 pr. 1/2 dimes.

The 1/2 dollar dies will be the soonest required, as we have but one pair of that denomination which have not been used.

Allow me also to request you to have our dies for the year 1841 forwarded in time to be got ready for use by the 1st. of January.

I am very respectfully
Yr. obedt. Servt.
J M Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqre.
Director of the Mint
Of the U. S.
Phila.

From/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Nov. 8.
Rec'd " 18. 1840.

Treasury Department
Novemb. 10th 1840

Sir,

From a letter of the 2d. inst received this day from J. M. Kennedy Esq Superintendt. of the Br. Mint of the U. S. at New Orleans I transmit the following extract. "for contingent expenses you will oblige me by remitting $1000 "to Dr. Patterson for the purchase from time to time in Philadela. "of such articles for the use of our Mint as are not to be procured here".

Agreeably to this request, a warrant has, this day, issued in your favor, as Director of the Mint, for the sum of $1000.

Very Respectfully Sir
I remain Your Obt. St.

Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the U. S.
Mint at Philadela.

From/ Sec. of Treasury,

Nov. 10.

Rec'd " 12. 1840.

An Estimate of the Expenses of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, for the year 1841.

	Dollars	Dollars.
For Salaries of Officers & Clerks:		
The Superintendent	2,500.	
The Treasurer	2,000	
The Coiner	2,000	
The Assayer	2,000	
The Melter & Refiner	2,000	
Two Clerks at $1200 each	2,400	12,900.
For Compensation to Workmen, ~~Laborers in the various departments~~		22,000.
For Incidental & Contingent Expenses, including fuel, materials, taxes, & Wastage of Gold & Silver.		17,100.
		52,000.

Mint of the United States,
Nov. 10. 1840.

Estimate for 1841.
New Orleans Br. Mint.
Nov. 10. 1840.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans November 13th: 1840

Sir,

I am requested by Dr Riddell, to write for some 25 or 30 carboys of nitric acid, for separating, "of a quality superior to the last, which is very inconvenient on account of the large admixture of muriatic acid." Your early attention to this order will confer a favor on us.

I received yesterday your letter enclosing two bills of lading for articles purchased by you for the use of our Mint, and stating, that you had as yet got no answer in relation to our Estimates for 1841. Dr Riddell, whom we wished to consult did not arrive, as I have before mentioned to you until the middle of October. In the hurry and anxiety at that time, to get every thing in readiness for an immediate resumption of operations, the consideration of the matter was, unfortunately, tho, I confess, not unavoidably, lost sight of. In the mean time, I was, as I have also before stated to you, prevented by a severe indisposition, from attending to business for several days.

I trust that these reasons will be, by yo admitted in extenuation, particularly when it is considered that you will still have received our Estimate in Season to lay it before the Treasury Department some three weeks prior to the opening of Congress, to be incorporated in a bill, which is generally, I believe, not ~~passed~~ presented until towards the close of the Session.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully
Your obed.t Servant
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq.re
Director of the Mint
of the U. S.
Philad.a

NEW ORLEANS
NOV
14

R. M. Patterson Esq.re
Director of the Mint of the
U. S.
Philadelphia.

[illegible]

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans
Nov. 13 / 41.

Rec'd. 23d.

From/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Nov. 13. 1840.
Rec'd " 23. "

Mint U.S.—

Nov. 16 / 40.

Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 6th inst., with the monthly report of your operations for October.

I am glad to learn that Dr. Riddell is now again at his post.— I hope that your officers will join their exertions, for the purpose of leaving the least possible amount of bullion uncoined, at the close of the year, when you send me your annual report.

I have duly received, and placed to the credit of your Mint, the thousand dollars transmitted to me, from the Treasury Department, at your request, for the payment of bills for articles purchased here for ~~the use~~ your use.

I regret to learn that you have been ill, and that there was so sad a cause for the delay in sending on your estimate for 1841. As the regulations of the Department did not admit of so long a postponement on my part, I was under the necessity of assuming your wants for the coming year to be the same as for the present, and ~~I~~ accordingly I sent the same estimate, viz.

For salaries, ~~of Officers &c~~	$12,900.
Wages,	22,000
Contingents,	17,100
	$52,000

If you deem it necessary to amend this estimate so as to correspond with your own, I will, on your so informing me, make application, for this purpose, to the Department. If you can make out with the sum I have asked, I would advise it.

~~I had hoped, from~~

Dr. Riddell told me, (I think it was he,) that your Subtreasury deposites were principally in Mexican dollars, and, as these ~~is some gain on their recoinage, I hoped~~ are worth something more than their nominal value, I had hoped that there would not be the loss, which you speak of, on the recoinage of public moneys deposited at the Mint. I will feel much obliged to you for a statement of this account.

R. M. P.

D

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint, N. O.

P. S. I send herewith copies of the bills rendered to me, of articles purchased for your Mint, & forwarded as per bills of lading sent to you on the 2'd inst. Should the articles received not correspond with the invoices, I will thank you to inform me.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Nov. 14. 1840.

Deposites for recoinage from the Subtreasury fund.

Gold	No. 70.	Sovereigns.	Value by tale.	Fineness.	product
			$ 13.493.59.	+ 915.	$ 13.477.30
	71.	French Coins.	4.215.75.	895.	4.189.78
Silver.	349.	Mex. Dollars	30.000.–	896.	30.123.43
	358.	Span. Coins	2.086.17	895.	2.017.17
	395.	Span. coins	5.913.27	895.	
		Mex. Dolls.	15.000.–	896.	
			20.913.27		20.644.82
	397.	5 franc pieces	17.480.19.	+ 900.	17.458.67
	419.	Mex. Dolls	30.000.–	895.	30.094.26
			$ 118.188.97.		$ 118.005.43
			Loss to date		183.54
					$ 118.188.97

+ titles assumed.

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, Nov. 30th 1840

H. Cammack
Trsr

Mint of the U. S.
Dec. 1. 1840.

Sir,

I have transmitted, by the present mail, to the Sec. of Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his frank, a box containing one pair half dollar dies, for 1840. We shall send in like manner, to-morrow, 1 pr. ¼ dollar, & 1 pr. ½ dime dies; and on the day after 2 tail ½ dollar dies, all for 1840.

The dies for 1841 are in a course of preparation.

R. M. P.
Director.

(To)
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Dec. 1. 1840.

December 1840

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 1. 1840.

Sir

I take the liberty of transmitting to you, by the present mail, a box of dies, directed on the inner envelope to the Superintendent of New Orleans Br. Mint,— to be forwarded under your frank. Two boxes more will be sent in the same manner, by the next two mails.

R. M. P.
Director.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

Dec. 1. Sent 1 pr. ½ $ dies
2 — 1 " ½ dime "
3 " 2 tail ½ $ "

[redacted]

To) Sec of Treasury

Dec. 1. 1840.

[redacted]

Dec

1840

December

1840.

[redacted]

[redacted]

U. S. Branch Mint New Orleans
December 4. 1840.

Sir,

I enclose the Statement of our operations for November, and, at your request, a memorandum of the deposites for recoinage from the Subtreasury fund. Upon the subject of these deposites, as also in relation to our Estimate for the year 1841 allow me to give you an extract from a communication I have just received from Mr. Cammack, at whose suggestion it was, that the additional sum of $2000 was asked, for the next year.

"As to the estimate for the ordinary expenses of the
"Mint for the year 1841, I of course, cannot know
"as well as yourself what will be required. I put
"down what I supposed would be the amount.
"I never expected that there would be a loss on
"the recoinage of the Subtreasury fund, but the
"result of our operations thus far, shews that it was
"prudent to be provided against it. Had I not
"paid out a large amount of foreign gold which
"could not be coined at the time, the loss would
"have been greater. If the full wastage allowed
"by law is to be claimed by the officers of the Mint,
"the full amount of the estimate which has been
"sent to the Director of the Mint at Philadel=
"=phia will, I think, be required to cover the expenses."
[illegible] anticipate no material loss, if any

on the coinage of the public moneys. But I am nevertheless of opinion that your Estimate should be so amended as to make it correspond with ours. Our coinage for the next year will, I hope, be very heavy. Should it prove so, the difference in amount between the two will probably be required for wastage

With great respect
Yr. Obedt. Servant
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint
of the U. S.
Philadelphia.

From/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Dec. 4.
Rec'd " 17. 1840.

(November Report.)

Dl.

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of November 1840

Deposites

Kind of Deposites	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces	dw	Ounces	dw	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:										
Foreign Coins	1029	47	1040	185	19.352	27	19.352	27		
									19.352	27
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion	389	90	363	95	423	49	423	16		
Foreign Coins	102.477	35	102.009	24	118.701	40	118.663	01		
									119.124	89
									138.477	16

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:					
Half Eagles	14.000	70.000	00 ✓		
				70.000	00
Silver:					
Half Dollars	146.000	73.000	00 ✓		
Quarter Dollars	108.000	27.000	00 ✓		
Dimes	265.000	26.500	00 ✓		
Half Dimes	70000	3.500	00 ✓		
				130.000	00
	589,000				
				200,000	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, December 1st 1840
H. Cammack
Treasurer

Treasury Department
December 10. 1840.

Sir,

The President decided, in Septr. last, to allow the necessary expenses incurred by Dr. Riddell, in travelling from N. Orleans to Philada. and N. York and back on matters relative to the operations of the Br. Mint at N. Orleans.

The enclosed bill, presented by Dr. Riddell to the Treasurer of the Br. Mint at N. Orleans, has been submitted for the sanction of the Department. I will thank you to state, whether, in your opinion, the bill is reasonable in amount.

Very Respectfully
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson -
Director of the Mint
Philada.

From

Sec. of Treasury.

Dec. 10.

Recd " 12. 1840.

Mint. U. S.
Dec. 14, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., enclosing a bill presented by Dr. Riddell to the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint, of $375, for his "necessary expenses incurred in travelling from New Orleans, to Phila., & New York & back, in matters relative to that Mint." You ask me to state "whether in my opinion this bill is reasonable in amount.

In reply, I have to state, that, from the inquiries which I have made, I have no doubt that Dr. Riddell's journey & visit to this Mint &c. may have cost him the full sum which he demands; but it was expressly understood between us, when he asked the letter which I wrote to you on the 11th Sept. last, that the allowance if made to him at all, should only be for his necessary expenses incurred on the road while actually travelling. I cannot assert that this limitation has been neglected in the claim presented by Dr. Riddell; but if not his expenses were certainly extraordinary, — much greater than I had ever supposed they could reach on such a journey.

I w'd respectfully recommend that the bill be referred back to the Supt. of the N.O. Mint, (without whose warrant it cannot be paid,) and that he be instructed to satisfy himself, from Dr. Riddell's bill of items, and if he deem it necessary, other sources of information, what were the necessary *road expenses* incurred on Dr. Riddell's journey, & that for this amount he issue his warrant on the Treasurer.

The original bill is returned to you enclosed.

R. M. P.
Dir

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treas.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

Dec. 14. 1840.

Mint of the U. S.
Dec. 18th, 1840.

Sir,

In the estimate for the Mint and its Branches which I had the honor to send to you on the 10th ult., I make the following remark.

"The estimate for the New Orleans Branch Mint is the same as that granted for the present year. On the 24th of Sept., I wrote to the Superintendent of that Mint, to ask for his estimate to from the bases of that which I was called upon to present to you. My letter has not brought an answer; and, as I cannot consent to delay this communication longer I am under the necessity of assuming that the expenses for the coming year will be the same as that for the last."

~~On the 16th of November, I receiv~~

The whole amount of this estimate was $52,000; viz.

For Salaries,	$	12,900
Wages,		22,000
Contingents,		17,100
	$	52,000

On the 16th of November, I received from New Orleans the estimate for which I had written. Its amount was $54,000. viz.

Salaries, of Superintendent	$2500	
Treasurer	2000	
Assayer	2000	
Melter & Refiner	2000	
Coiner	2000	
Two Clerks	2400	
		12,900
Wages of Workmen, — —		21,000
Incidental & Contingent Expenses		20,100
		$54,000

In reply to the letter ~~presenting~~ giving the above estimate, I informed Mr. Kennedy of that ~~estimate~~ which I had furnished; and said, — "If you deem it necessary to amend this estimate so as to correspond with your own, I will, on your so informing me, make application, for this purpose, to the Department. If you can make out with the sum I have asked, I would advise it."

I yesterday received a letter from Mr. Kennedy, of the 4th inst., in which he says: — "I am of opinion that your estimate should be so amended as to make it correspond with ours. Our coinage, for the next year, will, I hope, be very heavy. Should it prove so, the difference in amount between the two [$2000] will probably be required for [additional] wastage."

I comply with my promise to Mr. Kennedy, by laying this communication before you; but, at the same time, I cannot avoid expressing my doubts as to the necessity for so large an item of contingent expenses, especially with a view of providing for so great anticipated wastage. In a note from the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint to the Superintendent, of which a copy was sent to me, he says: "If the full wastage allowed by law is to be claimed by the Officers of the Mint, the full amount of the estimate which has been sent to the Director of the Mint, will, I think, be required, to cover expenses." I am surprised that it should be deemed possible that the *limit* of allowance prescribed by law ~~should~~ can be reached in the wastage. ~~It~~ This cannot happen without great carelessness, or loss from robbery. Our wastage, for the last year, at this Mint, was but about $3,000 in a coinage of $3,000,000. I may add, too, that our estimate, for the present year, "for incidental and contingent expenses, including wastage of gold and silver, fuel, materials, stationery, water-rent, and taxes," is $16,000. — The corresponding item which I have asked for the New Orleans

Mint is $17,100, — that which they ~~urge~~ ask $20,100.

R. M. P.

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

To/
Sec. of Treasury.
Dec. 18. 1840.

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 18, 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., with the report of your operations for Novr., which is very satisfactory.

I have also to thank you for the report on the deposites for recoinage from the Subtreasury. On this I have to remark, that the reported assays have caused us some surprise, — all of them seeming too low to correspond with our experience. Thus we find the average fineness of British sovereigns to 915½ full, instead of 915. Mex. dolls. 897, instead of 896 & 895. Spanish coins 898, instead of 895. French five-franc pieces commonly rise to 901, except those of more recent date, since the introduction of the humid assay. In the gold there is an item of $4215.75 of French coins reported at the fineness of 895. This, it appears to us must surely be a mistake; the legal standard being 900 since the revolution, and 916 before it.

I have found the loss on the recoinage of Spanish and Mexican silver, at this Mint, so considerable, — principally owing to deficient weight, especially in halves & quarters, — that I have directed that this part of the recoinage of Subtreasury money shd cease. As these coins are of denominations answering to our money of account, there is no inconvenience in their circulation. It is at your option to follow the same course which I have adopted.

Let me beg you to give me, at as early a day as possible after the close of the year, the information necessary for my annual report, as to what concerns your Mint.

I have sent, to the Sec. of Treasury, your estimate for 1841, with the remarks which you make on the subject, & which lead you to think that it ought to be substituted for that which I sent. I must observe, however, that I am strongly impressed with the conviction that your item of Contingent expenses is unnecessarily large. The idea of Mr. Cammack, that the Melter & Coiner may possibly make a wastage reaching the *limit* set by the law, is not to be entertained even hypothetically. – Nothing but the greatest carelessness, or loss by robbery, could lead to such a result. Our total wastage, last year, was but about $3,000, on a coinage of $3,000000. – Let me also state that our estimate, this year, "for incidental & Contingent expenses, including wastage of gold & silver, fuel, materials, stationery, water-rent, and taxes", is $16,000. The corresponding item which I have asked for your Mint is $17,100; and that which you ask $20,100.

Let me call your attention to the necessity of forwarding the coins reserved at your Mint for the Annual Assay made here in February.

You will also send me a report of the destruction of the dies of 1840, as instructed in my letters of June 4, 1839, & Jan. 16, 1840.

Have any measures been yet taken as to your Sweep? Dr. Riddell went to N. York, to make enquiries & arrangements as to this matter; but I learn that the Refiner to whom he spoke has heard nothing from him since.

(Signed) R. M. Patterson,
Director.

(To)
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

P.S. — We shall send you, to-morrow, through the Sec. of Treasury, 1 head ½ dollar, & 1 head ¼ dollar die; ~~for 1841,~~ and by the next mail, 1 head ½ eagle, 1 head dime, & 1 head ½ dime die; — all for 1841.

To/

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq

Supt. &c.

New Orleans.

Dec. 18. 1840.

Mint U. S.
Dec. 19, 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending you, by the present mail, a box of dies, addressed on the inner envelope to the Supt. of New Orleans Br. Mint,— to be forwarded under your frank as usual. We shall send another box on Monday. (These are the first dies of 1841(?)

Very respectfully,
your faithful servt.
R. M. P.
D.

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury.

(To)

Sec. of Treasury.

Dec. 19. 1840.

Treasury Department
December 21. 1840.

Sir

Yours of the 18th & 19th have been received – and a box of dies for the N. Orleans Br. Mint which shall be immediately forwarded.

The estimates as furnished by you on the 10th ulto. have been submitted to Congreſs – and I will thank you to write to the Superintendent at N. Orleans, stating to him that fact and urging, if you have not already done so, the greatest economy in the expenditures &c as you have proposed.

Very Respectfully
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada.

From/

Sec. of Treasury.
Dec. 21. 1840.
Rec'd " 23. "

Mint of the U. S.
Dec. 22. 1840.

Sir,

Herewith I send you a bill of lading of acid shipped on the 14th inst., for the use of your Mint.

Mr. Farr assures me that great care has been taken in the preparation of this lot of acid, and he feels confident that Dr. Riddell will find its quality much superior to the last. I will thank you to inform me, if this is not the case.

Very respy.
yr. faithful st.
R. M. P.
Director.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

per Geo. F. Dunning
Director's Clerk.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esqr.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Dec. 22. 1840

Treasury Department
December 22. 1840.

Sir

It has been intimated to the Department that the Branch Mint at N. Orleans had never been furnished with Eagle dies, and suggesting, whether it would not be proper to furnish them.

I will thank you to give your attention to the matter, and, if you shall think it expedient to do so, to cause them to be sent at as early a period as practicable - and, also, to urge upon the Officers of that branch the necessity of great industry & activity the coming year & of doing all in the way of coining that their means will enable them to perform.

Very Respectfully
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treas.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada.

From

Sec. of Treasury.

Dec. 22. } 1840.
Rec'd " 25. }

New Orleans

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

Dec. 26, 1840.

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 26th, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d inst., in which you state that it has been suggested to the Department whether it would not be proper to furnish the New Orleans Mint with Eagle dies. As this is the second time that this suggestion has been made, I must suppose that there is some particular desire to have this variety of gold coins struck at New Orleans, and I have accordingly ordered a pair of dies to be immediately prepared. It has appeared to me, however, that the smaller denominations were better suited to the amount of the deposites at this Mint, and that the trouble and expense of making the fixtures for the Eagle ought to be avoided. The whole amount of gold deposites in 1839 was but \$88,907; and in the eleven months which have elapsed of the present year, the amount is but \$239,927. These are ~~very~~ small sums, and have, as I think properly, been coined into half and quarter-eagles. — Still, I can have no possible objection to furnish Eagle dies, and the Superintendent, on consultation with the depositors, will then have a full choice as to the denominations to be coined. — If Congress would repeal the law making foreign gold coins a legal tender on terms which keep them from recoinage, the operations of the New Orleans Mint, in this metal, might make the striking of Eagles ~~very~~ desirable.

In the conclusion of your letter you ask me "to urge upon the Officers of the New Orleans Branch the necessity of great industry and activity in the coming year."— I shall be happy to communicate your desires in this matter, in which I join; but I would, I think, be doing injustice to those officers, were I to allow it to be inferred that their business has been neglected. I have before me the reports for the present year, up to the beginning of December. The amount of deposites was $741,023, and that of coinage $813,600.— No remark is necessary on this statement.-- All the deposites have been coined, and the deficiencies of the last year, caused by death of Officers and men, repaired. If this Mint has not answered the expectations of some of its most sanguine advocates, the fault lies in the small amount of the deposites, over which the Officers have no control.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

Mint of the U. S.
Dec. 28, 1840.

Sir,

The enclosed letter, of the 26th, was detained, in consequence of an error committed in a post-script, which I have now suppressed. It regarded the recoinage of Subtreasury deposites at the New Orleans Mint. I will now state, that a report on this matter, made at my request, presents the whole amount of recoinage at $118,188.97 of ~~which~~ deposites, producing $118,005.43 in our coins. Of the deposites $17,709.34 were in gold, and $100,479.63 in silver. The principal loss is on the recoinage of Spanish & Mexican half & quarter dollars, which are much ~~between~~ below the standard weight. —

R.M.P.
D.

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

Dec. 28, 1840.

Treasury Department
Decr. 30. 1840.

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communications of the 26th & 28th and to express my gratification at the favorable account you give of the operations &c of the Branch Mint at N. Orleans.

Very Respectfully
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia

From

Sec. of Treasury.
Dec. 30, 1840.
Rec'd Jan. 1, 1841

January
1841

NEW ORLEANS – 1841

Mint U.S. —
April 1st, 1839.

Sir,

~~In a late number~~ In the Globe of the 27th ult. there is a series of remarks ~~of your~~ on the New Orleans Mint, consisting principally of extracts from papers of your city, ~~wh~~ with regard to which it may be proper that ~~we~~ I should give some explanations to the Treasury Department. For this purpose, I beg leave to make of you the following inquiries.

1st. When did you commence coining?

2d. Were you supplied, from Philadelphia, with the necessary machinery, apparatus, and materials required for your operations, or do you think that you have had reasonable grounds for complaint in this respect, and that this has been a prominent cause for the scanty coinage of last year.

3d. When were the operations of the Mint suspended to allow the unacclimated officers & men to leave New Orleans; and when were the operations resumed by their return?

4th. Did you not consider this suspension, for the first hot season, an act of prudence and propriety?

5th. How are the operations of the Mint now going forward? Have you more than one press at work? Have you yet coined any thing but dimes & half dimes? If so what other coins? What are your immediate prospects as to coinage?

6. How much has been deposited at your mint for coinage: of this how much has been paid?

7. State the whole amount of your coinage up to the date of your report.

R. M. P.

To David Bradford Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint. New Orleans

3. If you can learn how much foreign silver & gold has been imported into N. Orleans, ~~I should~~ since the opening of your Mint, I should be very glad to have this information; and, if possible, I should like to know how much of this was in uncoined bullion.

To/ David Bradford, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

April 1. 1839.

April

1839

tates, New Orleans Cr.

				Dollars	cts
1841 March	31	By	Gold Bullion purchased for Coinage, for 3.799. oz. Stand. Gold, due the Treasurer	71	15
"	"	"	Silver Bullion purchased for Coinage, for 347. 09. oz. Stand. Silver, due the Treasurer	405	56
"	"	"	Gold Coinage, for balance of this account	9.144	34
"	"	"	Silver Coinage, for do " " do	5.279	10
"	"	"	United States Deposite Account, for the purchase of Bullion, for bal.ce of this acc.t	23.238	10
"	"	"	Thomas Hale, for 3 Silver deposites due him	4.041	15
"	"	"	Citizens' BK. of Lou.a " 3 do do " "	49.186	68
"	"	"	Improvement Bank " 1 do do " "	602	28
"	"	"	Mech's & Trad's BK. " 1 do do " "	1.036	10
"	"	"	Merchants BK. of N.O. " 4 do do " "	50.289	18
"	"	"	V. C. Kennedy, " 1 do do " "	99	97
"	"	"	Benoist Hackney & Co. " 1 do do " "	986	81
"	"	"	Converse & Co. " 2 do do " "	1.258	75
"	"	"	Jean Rebola, " 1 do do " "	199	88
"	"	"	Joseph Anderson, " 1 do do " "	497	28
"	"	"	F. Umpffelback, " 1 do do " "	500	63
"	"	"	Calvin J. Keith, " 1 do do " "	327	48
"	"	"	Bayard & Robb, " 1 do do " "	693	94
"	"	"	D. F. Grea, " 1 do do " "	379	78
"	"	"	J. W. Walker, " 1 do do " "	2.004	49
"	"	"	John Egerton, " 2 do do " "	2.576	60
"	"	"	Joseph Lallande, " 1 do do " "	100	21
"	"	"	Charles Deake, " 2 do do " "	1.552	17
"	"	"	W. Field, " 1 do do " "	199	39
"	"	"	J. Clark, Jr. " 1 do do " "	99	46
			Carried forward	154.770	48

Brought forward 170.088 27

1.70.088 27

1841										
			Brought forward						154.770	48
March	31	By	Garrett Weaver,	for	1	Silver	deposits	due him	493	44
"	"	"	Joseph Lobrano,	"	1	do	do	" "	249	91
"	"	"	Hiram Beard & Co,	"	1	do	do	" "	2995	10
"	"	"	E. Fichenot,	"	1	do	do	" "	998	10
"	"	"	J. L. Riddell,	"	1	do	do	" "	151	30
"	"	"	A. J. Cunningham,	"	1	do	do	" "	101	53
"	"	"	Louis Moret,	"	1	do	do	" "	1001	07
"	"	"	John F. Barnet,	"	1	do	do	" "	799	08
"	"	"	Sam. H. Samuels,	"	1	do	do	" "	100	49
"	"	"	Jane DaCosta,	"	2	do	do	" her	199	03
"	"	"	J. Giesecke,	"	1	do	do	" him	183	18
"	"	"	John Rollins,	"	1	do	do	" "	102	98
"	"	"	Jamison & Todd,	"	1	do	do	" "	97	06
"	"	"	Bayard Robb & Hoge,	"	1	do	do	" "	5.107	64
"	"	"	John Shiller,	"	1	do	do	" "	98	66
"	"	"	Françoise Bachelier,	"	1	do	do	" her	100	26
"	"	"	Louis Mederic,	"	1	do	do	" him	256	66
"	"	"	Nicholas Lewis,	"	1	do	do	" "	601	15
"	"	"	J. F. Laville,	"	1	do	do	" "	100	32
"	"	"	J. P. Armstrong,	"	1	do	do	" "	456	73
"	"	"	John F. Miller,	"	1	do	do	" "	100	15
"	"	"	B. Ongatte,	"	1	do	do	" "	97	29
"	"	"	L. O. Nadaud,	"	1	do	do	" "	100	09
"	"	"	L. Dobbin,	"	1	do	do	" "	425	99
"	"	"	Francis A. Gaston,	"	1	do	do	" "	100	37
"	"	"	J. W. Cook,	"	1	do	do	" "	100	49
"	"	"	P. S. Levick,	"	1	do	do	" "	99	80
"	"	"	Richard Keen,	"	1	do	do	" "	99	92
									170.088	27

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, March 31. 1841.

Dr. Branch Mint of the United S

			Dollars,	cts
1841				
March 31	To	the Coiner his account of Gold for 109.290 oz. Standard Gold, to be accounted for by him	2.033	20
"	"	the Coiner his account of Silver, for 76.090. 68. oz. Standard Silver to be accounted for by him	88.541	88
"	"	the Melter & Refiner his acc.t of Gold for 2.039. 940 oz. Standard Gold, to be accounted for by him	37.952	74
"	"	the Melter & Refiner his acc.t of Silver for 33.133. 66. oz. Standard Silver to be accounted for by him	38.555	52
"	"	Profit & Loss, for balance of this acc.t	662	77
"	"	Edmond Forstall, (late Treasurer of the Br. Mint,) for balance of this acc.t	2.342	16
		Carried forward	170.088	27

New Orleans May 25th 1839

Dear Sir

I have both good news and bad news to communicate, but let me begin with the bad and wind up with the good — I resumed the coining of half doll last week, but to my great mortification and disappointment I soon discovered that not only was the socket cracked so as to leak oil through, but, that the head of the Triangle seemed to be breaking ~~off~~ in two — I immediately had the triangle taken out with the intention of making a temporary repair, by putting a strong iron band around the top of it — On examination however, I found that the Ball and Socket had been cutting and tearing each other at a most surprising rate, so that the face of the ball appeared to have crumbled off as though it were of coarse rotten cast-iron; and the socket (which appears to be nothing but case-hardened iron) much torn and cut away — My course therefore was to put on the band, as before mentioned, and to order a new ball and socket — I believe that the Press was kept faithfully oiled, and that no blame attaches to the man who worked it — I shall loose no time, in getting the Press to work again —

With regard to the small Press, she has acquitted herself most *Nobly* — For the last ten or twelve days of her *running* she has "walked over the course" with 41,000 pieces each day and on the day before yesterday, she won the "Sweep Stakes" of 64,000 pieces — Time 11 hours and 2 minutes — Only one person attended her, and it was found that the man could *feed* both himself and the Press at the same time

I had a conversation yesterday with Mr Martin Gordon on the subject of the relative benefits, of pushing as we have done the coining of small pieces, or, of leaving them for the sake of getting forward with the larger ones, — but considering that the demand for such as we are prepared for the execution of, has been up to the present time fully equal to ~~th~~ our ability to supply them, and that by pursuing steadily a single branch we could arrive more speedily & to a perfection (which may be at once adopted into all the others) as the following results will show, Mr Gordon is decidedly of the opinion, that I have pursued the wisest course —. He says that the half dollars and even the Quarters, are far more desirable to the Banks for hoarding up than the smaller pieces are, besides which a great proportion of our coinage has been put immediately into circulation, by being taken by Individuals in small amounts into all parts of this section of the Country — There was produced in ~~[illegible]~~ ~~ing~~ the month of January 70,000 pieces, in Feb. 128,000, and in March 370,000, in April 400,000, including 100,000 half Dollars and in the present more than 600,000 pieces in Dimes and half dimes, besides 400,000 dimes ~~Coined~~ last year — In all about 2,000,000 of pieces, nearly all of which have already been put in circulation.

I am glad to hear of the very satisfactory performance of your new Steam Engine, but I was prepared to expect as much from what I saw when I was there — We already begin to feel the want of a similar one, as it is impossible to make our Presses perform as much in a day by the Engine that drives the other machinery as by one devoted to that work exclusively, — I think that the difference may be estimated at from 15 to 20 per cent

Little Patterson, has become a great favourite here, he grows finely, and runs every where, but we find the climate very severe upon him, producing frequent spells of sickness — The Thermometer has ranged for several days from 84° to 88° in my chamber and the Musquetoes" from 50 to a Million" — Horrible in sickness —

The most of our men who brought out their Wives & families have sent, or are about to send, them back to Philadelphia — My health is very good — That of my family generally rather slim — I should be glad to hear something of what is going on, what changes &c. in your Mint — Please to present my sincere regards to the Officers there and

believe me

Truly and sincerely

Yours &c

Rufus Tyler

To/ Dr R. M. Patterson
Director of the U States Mint

From/
Rufus Tyler, Esq.
New Orleans
May 25/39.
Recd. June 5.

(Express Mail)

Single

ORLEANS
MAY
27

To/ Dr R. M. Patterson
Director of the U. States Mint
Philadelphia
Pa

Mint U.S. — Jan. 4/41.

Sir,

I have sent to you, under the frank of the Secretary of the Treasury, a pair of Eagle dies. — I have not myself deemed it advisable that you should go to the trouble and expense of the fixtures for this coinage, as you have so little gold deposited with you; but some individual, (unknown to me,) has twice complained to the Secretary, that Eagle dies have not been sent to your Mint, — and I must therefore suppose that ~~he~~ there is, *at least*, ~~has~~ some reason for wishing this variety of coinage, of which ~~is unknown~~ I am ignorant. It is now for you to determine whether it is to be made or not. — It is proper to state, for the information of the Coiner, that the diameter of the Eagle is 1.05 inch, — and the allowance for the expansion of the collar in hardening 0.004.

I will thank you to ascertain, as early as possible, (if you have not already done so,) the wastage required by the Melter & Refiner, and the Coiner, for the year which has just closed. A hint in the extract which you sent me of a note from Mr. Cammack makes me uneasy on this subject. You will of course accompany this report with a statement of the whole amount of the deliveries made by the Treasurer to the Melter and Coiner. — I ~~would~~ will be glad if you can also furnish me with a statement of the finenesses, reported by the assayer, of the several melts of ingots, both of silver and gold, delivered by the Melter to the Treasurer. — It is also desirable, in connexion with this inquiry, that I should know the loss allowed on melting the different varieties of deposits. This is a more difficult matter for a statement, as I cannot ask for a list of all your weights before and after melting. Perhaps, however, you could, without inconvenience, give me such a list for some one month, or other suitable period, that may include all the varieties of deposits.

It may be not unimportant that I should give you, here, a statement of the wastage, at this Mint, during the past year, on the amounts delivered by the Treasurer to the Melter & the Coiner. They are as follows:

Melter. —	Gold	0.000	Millièmes.	Silver	0.755	~~M.~~
Coiner.	"	0.281	"	"	0.238	"

(To)
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint, New Orleans

R. M. P.
Director.

P.S. — In the close of this letter, I have given the result of the Wastage, here, in Millièmes; but, as I wish you to give details I will add now the amounts of the deliveries & Wastage in ounces. They are as follows:

Chief-Coiner..	Silver deliv'd.	1,474,927.15	ozs.	Wastage	350.50	ozs.
" "	Gold "	105,860.020	"	"	29.767	"
Melter & Refiner.	Silver "	1,483,373.75	"	"	1120.85	"
" "	Gold "	105,933.916	"	"	0.000	"

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Jan. 4, 1841.

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 8. 1841.

Sir,

I send you, herewith, a statement of my account of expenditures for your Mint, during the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1840, accompanied ~~with~~ by the necessary vouchers. A balance remains in my hands, to your Credit, of $444.68.

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasr. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ H. C. Cammack, Esq,
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Jan. 8. 1841.

Melter & Refiner's Office Branch Mint
New Orleans, January 11th, 1841.

J. M. Kennedy Esqr
Superintendant

Sir,

I this day carefully melted down in a clean large pot, and thoroughly stirred, near 8000 ounces, of Dollars, mainly Mexican, being a fair representation, of the general run of Mexican Dollars, so called, deposited in this Mint, inasmuch as there were 22 distinct deposits from different sources, I had received them all at the assumed title of 897^{m}. The Assayer has found the title of the same by actual assay to be 895. The principal instances in which we have, in a certain and unexceptionable manner, got the title of large sums, of these mixed Mexican dollars, have been in deposites from our Subtreasury, in respect to which I have several times felt myself awkwardly surprised to find the titles turning out 895^{m} & 896^{m}: for, though in every such instance a profit has accrued to Government for the recoinage, yet this profit has been about one fourth less than expected.

I am now satisfied that the general average title of Mexican and mixed Dollars, presented at this Mint for recoinage, will fall short of 897^{m}. In consenting a year ago to receive them at that rate, I was guided principally by the experience of the Mother Mint, as well as in part by the result of assays made at the time, on a few large deposits from the Bank of Louisiana. But it is probable that there are more inferior dollars, in circulation here, than at the North, on account of our proximity, to Mexico, Texas, and the West Indies, and consequently the great facilities offered to illicit traders, for introducing such dollars into circulation, without exciting suspicion.

Much of the Silver bullion deposited for coinage in 1840, has been Mexican dollars, (with other coins admixed) received by me at 897^{m}, without assay, and notwithstanding the extraordinary care I have taken to prevent waste, I find myself compelled to claim, on annual settlement, a pretty large silver wastage; this I think attributable to several causes,

1st To the aforesaid Dollars being of lower standard than 897^{m}.

2d To loss of weight on silver clippings received, owing to adherent dirt, there being no corresponding or counterbalancing loss of weight on the ingots delivered, From experiments several times performed by myself, I infer that the loss on clippings has been 1^{m} to 2^{m} ~ say one and a half ounces on the thousand ounces,

3d Perhaps in some degree, to the want of sufficient experience, and practical skill in my department, in the early part of the year, especially in regard to the management of grains, coupled with the want of a grinding machine, and other appliances for working grains. Of all these conveniencies we have lately possessed ourselves

I will here frankly acknowledge, which I do with pleasure, that I am under great obligations, to the accomplished Officers, of the Parent Mint, for material & practical information, on all the subjects connected with my department, communicated during my visit to that institution in August last, and most of all am I indebted to them for a correct knowledge of the best method of working grains, From the large amount of parting and casting Gold, and Silver ingots, accomplished during the months November & December, I found as the close of the year approached, that it would be impossible so to work and smelt the grains, the Bullion on old pots, or iron implements – in acid, &c. &c. as to ascertain their exact value, and being compelled by our instructions, to make my annual settlement, and present my accounts, actually on the 31st. of December, I did what you directed the best I could; deeming it proper under the circumstances, to make a moderate and safe estimate of those grains &c. whose approximate value only could be ascertained.

You direct me to report on the Sweeps, which the Mint has not the means of working up, what their amount and value may be when the grains shall have been all wrought. I can not well tell, but suppose there will be in them, from eight to twelve hundred ounces, of Silver. When prepared it has been my intention, as you are aware, to ship them to Messrs. Greenfield & Longman, Sweep Smelters New York, I do not suppose they will be ready to ship before the first of March.

I have claimed full wastage on Gold, as a matter of safety, because I have had no time to work up the Gold grains, as they deserve, and the amount of gold they may contain is consequently somewhat uncertain. I think it possible that upon working them up fully, I may find something to report to the credit of the Mint; yet I do not feel confident of this, because until quite recently, I have been compelled to melt all the Gold, in the Silver melting room.

Respectfully Your Obt. Servt.

J. L. Riddell Melt. & R.

P. S. The Assayer has obligingly furnished me with random excerpts from his Books, of the titles of low Standard Mexican dollars, assayed by him during a short period of 1839 which confirms me in my opinion that there are in New Orleans, in circulation or in Bank, an unusual share of low Standard Standard Dollars. I herewith enclose the same.

J. L. R.

Mexican Dollars.

W. F. Vigers	20th March 1839.	872.
W. H. Kerr P.M.	25th – –	618.
L. Pary	6th April –	888.
P. Fow	– – –	894
J. D. Archer	– – –	893
Anty. Costa	14th – –	894
J. R. Conner	– – –	885
M. Felton	– – –	890.
P. Casas	19th – –	895
J. C. Folly.	22d –	893
S. H. Samuels	29th –	895
Jon. Villarubia	– –	895
G. Gelpi	1 May –	895
F. Marks.	2 – –	895
Chs. Mapes	– –	894
B. Peffett	3. –	892
S. Viosia	7th –	892
Caldwell & Co	8th –	888
B. Ongatte	– –	894
P. White	10th –	895
J. Gelpi	11 –	892
M. D. Pemety	11 June	889

O. Lance	28th June 1839	888
J. A. Wogza	11. July –	887
P. Peffett	25 – –	888
J. Martenstein	– –	888
James Grass	9th August – –	857

New Orleans Jan 18th. 1841

Dear Sir - - I have been thinking for several days past that I would write to you, but having so much to communicate, I have been waiting for more leisure untill it actually appears too much for me to accomplish at one time. —— I have finished my annual settlement with the Treasurer quite satisfactorily, requiring for wastage as follows

Silver received from the Treasurer 1.126.199.56 } ounces *allowance* by law 2.242
" Returned to " " 1.125.549.56 } " difference for wastage 650. oz
Gold Received — 30.378.349 } wastage allowed by law 45 ounces
" Returned 30.363.654 } difference for wastage - 14 ounces
which you will see is much more favourable than the M & R.
Silver required by M & R. 2.300. ounces, Gold 63.$\overset{dec}{046}$ ounces }
allowance by law about 2.500 " " 63.046 " }

I saw a letter from Dr Patterson a few days *since, in which* he expresses great surprise at certain deposits of Mexican dollars having fallen so low in standard, made by the Sub Treasury, which could reflect upon no one but the Melter & Refiner. Also, that the officers could not claim the whole amount allowed by law, without having been guilty of gross carelessness, or subject to theft - to a large amount. Now I think when he learns that not only the Sub Treasy deposits have fallen below the established standard, but that complaints are frequently made by persons who deposite here to a large amount, and that Dr R. refuses to take any more Mex. dolls - for more than 895. together with his requiring such a large amount for wastage. *that the fullest expression* of his letter, above refered to, will be called in requisition. I wish Dr Patterson could know for a single week, all the disgracefull circumstances that occur in this mint and as some of them, in some degree effect me, I will relate them to you, and so far as you think proper, you are at liberty to repeat them to Dr Patterson. — Previous to the Presidential election, Dr R. frequently stated to me, that he should require but little wastage. But immediately after that event, he commenced to assert that "he should require all the law would allow" at which time he had not weighed his bullion, or made any estimates. But to justify his claim began shaping his way of making it appear, that when he was the loser, I was the gainer. which being entirely without foundation, I took no notice of it, untill the day of reckoning.

I have to day had a conversation with Mr Cammack who appears completely outdone with Dr R. presumptuous and vexatious conduct. He says if Dr R's every day transactions were properly reported to Dr Patterson, they would be sufficient to show ~~him~~ that his propensities ~~were~~ entirely unfited him for such a responsible situation. The Supt. takes a very strange course of late by which he shields Dr R. from his true deserts. I understand he has not yet reported to Dr Patterson, our anull settlement. and was inquiring but a day or two since, if the Director would discover how much wastage Dr R. had required, if he did not inform him of it. — By which is evident that he does not intend to forward any evidence against Dr R. who appears to be cunningly managing him under of political influence. — Dr Riddell states in his letter to the Supt. that a great portion of his wastage has occured in his transactions with me. Now I can show, if that assertion reaches Dr Patterson. that the amount claimed by Dr R. for wastage is not the difference between the amount of bullion delivered to him and the amount returned by him, for on the 31st of Dec he gave the Treasurer a statement of the bullion in his possession. with the weight & value of each parcel affixed. but when the Treasurer weighed it he found two bars of silver containing gold. weighing about 1.000 ounces. which were not enumerated in the statement. While every other item came out correct, as also the calculations, consequently he could not require so much for wastage as his Statement called for by just the amount of these bars. But on discovering this Dr Riddell requested the privilege of reexamining the whole before it was entered on the Treasr. books. — It was at this time that the Treasr. informed me of it and said Dr R. would manage it so as to claim them all in his wastage. and sure enough. the next day when the settlement was made. he had estimated a parcel of grains just enough less, to make his account correspond with the first Statement. Now this transaction alone, if properly reported would be sufficient, in my estimation, to convict him of fraud. And our Supt. is well informed of it. but acts upon the principle of his conversation yesterday with Mr Cammack. when Mr C. said the reputation was fast sinking, by which the character of every officer was more or less effected and that it was his duty to report such disgracefull transactions to Dr Patterson to which Mr Kenedy replied "Who wishes to bring an officer into difficulty" and even went so far as to request and urge Mr C. to receive the Mexican dolls at 895. — And in regard to the wastage. told me he would sign any warrant for Dr R. provided it came within the limits prescribed by the law, when the law distinctly says he shall use his discretion, to which I referred him particularly. when he asked my advice in the matter. It was several days before he signed the warrant, durring which time he tried every means he could think of to clear himself of the responsibility. Such as requesting the Treasr. to state to him in writing that the requirement for wastage was within the limits of the law, which Mr C. refused. He then tried to effect the same thing through Mr C. clerk. which C. discovered & prevented. till at last reduced to the only resource, he laid his difficulties before Dr Riddell. and requested him to make ~~him~~ a Statement in writing. of the probable cause of the wastage, which would justify him in signing the warrant. When Dr R. ~~stated to him~~ wrote him a letter stating that. he had been taking Mexican dollars at a nominal value of 897. when in reality they only 895. and that 7/8th of his whole amount of bullion had been been delivered to him at that value without assaying. which with some other trivial causes, must account for his great amount of wastage — with this the Supt. was satisfied, and shewed the letter to Mr Cammack. who flared up a little, and declared it to be a fabrication that would not stand the test. and on examining the books shewed the Supt. that only about 1/8 or less than 1/4 instead of 7/8 of his bullion had been delivered to him without assaying. at which the Supt. immediately informed Dr R. of it. and told he must assign some other reason. Dr R. replied that he had made a mistake, and if he would return his letters he would alter it. with which the Supt. unhesitatingly complied. when in the same half hour Dr Riddell wrote another letter in which he discovers the great loss to have been, in receiving clippings of me. by which he says he has lost from ~~one~~ to two ounces on every draught by the extraneous matter which they contained. Fortunate for me. that so far as my interest or reputation is assailed, it is by one whose whole course leaves such evidence on every side, of his true character.

A few days since Mr Cammack deposited some French Gold. of which the standard was established, and finding them to fall so far below their value. he complained of it to the Supt. and requested that pieces might be sent to Phila. for assaying. to which the Supt. agreed, and told the M&R. not to melt the bars, untill the pieces were taken off. but in a day or two after, when Mr Cammack urged it again the Supt. found that the bars were melted. So what could he do about it? Thus it goes from day to day, untill the instances are innumerable. The great point now, appears to be, about the standard of mexican dollars. the melting of which has been suspended untill it can be determined.

Mr Cammack is determined to have every deposite melted unless the Standard is fixed at 897. he says it is the only thing upon which the Mint depends for support, and if the Standard is reduced to 895. we shall never receive another deposite except for small coins. — I have explained to Mr Cammack one particular, by which Dr Riddell appears caught in his own trap for instance: Dr R. complains that he had been taking Mexican dollars at too low a Standard without knowing it till he made the discovery by experiments made after he found his wastage to be so great. — Now compare the facts? He has always been particular to melt Mex. dolls. by themselves. He has made his calculations at 897. and added the proper proportion of fine silver to bring them to the Standard for ingots. — And has never failed in a melt, but once, and then he said he discovered a mistake in his calculation of fine silver. — Now in a lot of $20.000 you will see how impossible it would be for him to have added 30. or 40 oz of fine silver, more than he intended without knowing it. ~~Ba~~ Bah!! — I suppose you have heard before this of our great months work, of $200.000 which would probably have been much greater if I could have obtained the ingots. To shew you Dr Rs sense of propriety, I will relate one more circumstance. A few days since when my department had been entirely out of work, I reported it to the Supt. who said he was sure there were some ingots ready, for Dr R. had promised him two days before, to make a melt, and requested me to go with him to Dr R. who met us with the amusing tale, that one of his men, in consequence of being paid off the day before, had got drunk. and neglected to make the fire in the morning. and when he did come the next day, he was still so drunk, that he had sent him away to get sober.— which in effect amused the Supt. but made me very angry. when I told them that a man never would get intoxicated but once, in my department. Dr Said this was a very faithfull man &c, and he did not wish to part with him. I told him his faithfullness, was fully exemplified, as all the Mint had felt.—

When Dr Riddell had all his Bullion ready for the annual settlement with the Treasurer, an order came from the Judge of the Criminal Court. for him and his Brother to appear for their sentence. which can be 60. but not less than 1 day in the city callaboose —— but their lawyer ~~of~~ reminded the Judge that the civil suit was still pending. and they could not then be sentenced. but thank Justice. the civil suit is over, and damages given against him, I understand. for $2.000— So the next time he is sent for, the Mint will have a holiday. ——— unless the call comes from the same source of the one he had yesterday. when a bold ...... young woman made her appearance in the hall. in front of my rolling room door. demanding of the porter in high tones, to see Mr Riddell. declaring with profanity. that nothing should compell her to leave the place untill she saw him, as she had at last learnd his name and where he lived. if he was not in, she would remain till he came in— in the mean time Dr Riddell & brother went into the Melting room and locked the door, when they would not leave untill the noise of the woman and the laughter of the workmen brought Dr Hort down, who made one or two unsuccessfull attempts before the matter was settled — I will stop the subject, but not for want of matterial for I fear I have already wearied your patience, with the rehearsal of a subject at which I am myself disgusted.

Mr Bronson handed me your letter containing your order for the money for the fans, — which he has since collected. I think he is not doing much with the machinery. He may understand the making and using, but I fear he does not understand selling well. I believe it is a good business, if rightly taken hold of I spent about a month, the first summer after I came out here, in the country with the Planters, in anticipation of going into that business. —

I wish you could do something with the counting machine, as it is really a valuable machine and the family are in need of the benefit of it. if there is any prospect of my going to Phila this summer, I should prefer leaving it till then. —

The children all enjoy excellent health and are studying French and Music. we have made a class of our family 7 in number, and Parley vous three evenings in a week — little Patterson makes fun in french — Please remember my respects to your family

Yours Sincerely — M. B. Tyler

Favr/ P. B. Tyler.
New Orleans,
Jan. 18/41.

Mr M. W. Baldwin Esqr
Broad Street
Philadelphia
Pa

NEW O[illegible] JA[illegible]

duy
[illegible]ind

New Orleans Jan 20th 1841

Dear Sir

Since writing you the particulars of the wastage accounts for 1840 Mr Cammack has given me the inclosed copy of a letter which he drew up and addressed to Mr Kennedy, which will corroborate some of the statements made in my last.

But he informs me that on showing it to the Supt. he replied that no such letter as he refered to, existed. or rather that Dr Riddell had recalled it. and the mere fact of his having shewn it to Mr C. could not be considered official, In answer to which Mr C. replied that Dr Riddell had made an official statement which he had proven by his books to be incorrect. and the mere fact of Mr K's having returned it to Dr R. did not shew that such a statement had not been made officially. although it gave him the privilege of assigning some other cause for his wastage.) But owing to Mr Kennedys dislike to the expositions made in ~~it~~ the inclosed letter, Mr C. has retained it, and given me the inclosed copy. He says I have a right to be informed of the facts contained in it. and that I have the privilege of making use of the information whenever my interest is concerned —

I have seen a letter this evening from Dr Patterson, which will probably call from Mr Kennedy, facts which must corroborate much that I have stated. I perceive by it that he has not forgotten his duty. if others have

in great haste Yours Sincerely. P.B. Tyler.

An impression has been Created that much of the extraordinary wastage on Silver Bullion in the melting and refining department of this Mint for the Year 1840 has been occasioned by receiving for Coinage deposites of Mexican dollars at the Standard of 897 and melting them into ingots without assay: and by the delivery of Clippings in a dirty greasy State: and the same has been the subject of a letter from the Melter and Refiner to the Superintendent –

Were this communication from the Melter and Refiner intended only for the perusal and Consideration of the Superintendent, it would not be deemed necessary to comment on the subject, but as it is understood that it will be laid before the Director of the Mint in Philadelphia it seems proper that some explanations should be made to remove impressions it is calculated to create to the prejudice of the person charged with the delivery of Bullion and Clippings to the Melter and Refiner.

The practice of receiving small deposites of Mexican dollars and assuming the title to be 897, to save an immense trouble to the Melter and Refiner was Commenced in this Mint about the middle of the Month of March with the Sanction of the Superintendent, and the Consent of the Melter and Refiner, the Assayer and the Treasurer. It was Considered, from the assays made in this Mint since the beginning of its operations that this title was a perfectly safe one to the Mint as an average one. A similar practice in the Mint at Philadelphia had caused no inconvenience there –

No failures in the melting of ingots. Nor other inconvenience on account of this practice having been made known, it was Continued here until the end of December, since which time the Melter and Refiner refuses to receive Mexican dollars at 897 he says they occasion a loss to the Mint and should be fixed at a lower title.

The Books of the Treasurers Office shew the deposites of

Silver Bullion in the Mint for Coinage during the Year 1840 to be 572.926.92 Ounces. Of this amount only 90.576 $\frac{00}{100}$ ounces appear to be in Mexican dollars received at 897 without assay, ~~and~~ not ⅓ of the whole as at one time stated by the Melter and Refiner — One other deposite made by the Bank of Louisiana weighing 17.333 ounces is entered at 897 on the Register, there is no evidence on the Books that this was melted, but according to the recollection of the Treasurer and the Weighmaster no deposite of this magnitude has been received without melting.

The ingots delivered by the Melter and Refiner to the Coiner during the year, are as follows.

Up to the 24 May, when the big pot was first used, in melting 392.741.66 ounces which averaged 899.80 fine

After the 24 May 704.760.35 Ounces which averaged 899.00 The whole of which were received as Standard Ingots, at 900 fine, and the gain on them after deducting the weight of Clippings returned say 664.540.68, is more than enough to counterbalance any loss on the unassayed dollars. It follows then that the Mint cannot have lost by this practice; for if the dollars ran lower than was anticipated, the Ingots were also lower, and the quantity of dollars received in this way has been far too small to have much influence on the Melts even if they had been all under 897 which was hardly possible.

The delivery of both Clippings and Ingots has been the cause of some unpleasantness to the Officers of the Mint. The Clippings have been brought to the Scales by the Coiner, as clean as he has assured the Treasurer, as he can possibly get them without pickling, which he has not been required to do, and which he says is not practised in Philadelphia, and although the Melter and Refiner has sometimes said that they could be made cleaner, he has never been desired to receive any against his will —

New Orleans
January 20. 1841

Reported assays of gold coins deposited for Coinage

Deposite No	86.	H. Bean & Co.	Sovereigns	914 Fine
	87.	Sub Treasury	Sovereigns	914. —"—
✓	88	do	42 Bogota 11 popayana 16 mexican 11½ mixed } doubloons	860. —"—
	89	do.	20 & 40 francpieces	896 —"—
	90.	do	Amn Eagles old coinage	911.
	92.	James Hepburn	Columbian doubloons. said Bogota;	867.
	93.	Jno Bertrand	Sovereigns	914.
	94.	P. B. Tyler	Thalers	892.

✓ one eighths of a doubloon - said to be counterfeit.

Package no1 Contains

Silver assay Coins	Jany	25	$ 4.00	✓	
" " "	"	30	3.80	✓	
Gold " "	"	30	30.00	✓✓	
Silver " "	Feby	6	1.20		
" " "	"	27	9.70		
Gold " "	"	27	10.00	✓	
Silver " "	Mch	6	3.00		
Gold " "	"	31	10.00	✓	
Silver " "	April	20	2.90		
" " "	"	24	7.00		
" " "	"	30	3.70		
Gold " "	"	30	10.00	✓	$ 95.30

Package no2 Contains

Silver assay Coins	May	3	.20		
	~~May 3~~	7	5.20		
		12	.60		
		15	1.00		
		20	.30		
		22	.40		
		28	3.20		
		29	.80		
		31	4.95		
Gold do do	"	31	10.00	✓	~~$ 26.70~~
Silver do do	June	5	1.20		
		12	2.80		
		19	4.15		
		26	2.00		
		30	10.85		
Gold do do		30	10.00	✓	$ 57.70

$ 153.00

forward $ 153.00

Package No 3. Contains

Silver assay Coins July	14. —	$ .. 60¢	
	17 —	.. 60	
	24 —	3.25	
	27 —	20	
	28 —	2.00	
	29 —	4.75	
	31 —	2.35	
	~~28~~ —	~~2.60~~	
Silver do do Aug	10 —	2..	
	12 —	.. 50	
	18 —	3.00	
	21 —	1.00	
Gold do do	5 —	10.00 ✓	
do do do	10 —	5.00 ✓	
do do do	18 —	2.50 ✓	
Silver do do Nov	26 —	2.00	
" do do Dec	6 —	2.00	
	14 —	4.00	
	18 —	4.00	
	28 —	3.60	
	30 —	3.15	$ 56.50
			$ 209.50

✓ Silver $ 112.00 ✓
✓ Gold 97.50 ✓
$ 209.50

No 1 Package Contains Silver Coins	$ 35.30
2 do " " "	37.70
3 do " " "	39.00
	$ 112.00
No 1 Package Contains Gold Coins	$ 60.00
2 do " " "	20.00
3 do " " "	17.50
	$ [illegible]
Gold	$ 97.50

75

Paid double

To/ M. W. Baldwin Esq.
Broad Street
Philadelphia
Pa

Forward $ 153. 00

From /
P. B. Tyler
N. Orleans, Jan 20/41

Branch Mint New Orleans
January 23. 1841.

Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 8th instant covering account of expenditures for this mint during the quarter ending 31 december 1840. which will have my attention

I have a Communication from the ~~office of the~~ Comptrollers office at washington advising me of some suspended items in my account in relation to ordinary expences ~~and of~~ this Branch Mint. -

The principal ones are.

Payment made to H. Davis for services
rendered during the investigation .... $ 1430. -

Amount due by Edmond Forstall, for two
drafts drawn on you in august 1839
and not entered in his books &c ... 535.43

Payment to Thomas Slidell services during
the investigation. under 3 Sect of
act 1839 . . . . 1.000.

Robert Patterson's traveling expences to
New York ..... } 10.75

I am, very respectfully,
yours very sincerely
H Cammack
Treasurer

To Doctor R. M. Patterson

JAN-22
1841

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans January 24. 1841

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a pair of Eagle dies. With regard to the "person unknown" of whom you speak as having more than once importuned the Secretary of the Treasury respecting the Coinage at our Mint, I can form but one conjecture having in it any degree of probability; and that is, that it is Mr Benton. You recollect that in a letter of complaint which he addressed to Mr Woodbury in April last, and of which you sent me a copy, he asks, among other inquiries, whether we have been furnished with "dies for the Eagle".

In your letter to me of the 18th ult. speaking of the French gold coin received from the Sub-Treasury fund and reported at 895, you say "This, it appears to us, must surely be a mistake." By a memorandum of gold coins deposited for recoinage, which has been furnished me by Mr Cammack and which I herewith enclose, you will perceive the same description of coin again reported at 895. That deposite, I am informed, was assayed twice with precisely the same result. I had intended to have sent you a piece of the bar, that you might have satisfied yourself as to the accuracy of Dr Hort's assay and to informed Dr Riddell, but it was afterwards inadvertently melted. We have however another deposite of the same kind, and of that, I shall take care that you see a specimen.

Mr Cammack is preparing a statement giving all the information you ask in your letter of the 4th inst. It will be forwarded to you (together with a copy of a letter from Dr Riddell to me) so soon as it comes into my hands. Our silver coinage this month, will I am afraid, be small, owing to the necessity we have been under of using the smaller denominations of dies — the half dollar ones last forwarded, as I have already informed you, were but of little service —

I am very respectfully
Your Obdt Servant
J M Kennedy
Supt

R. M. Patterson Esqre
Director of the Mint
of the U.S.
Philada

NEW ORLEANS
JAN
25
La.

75

R. M. Patterson Esquire
Director of the Mint of the
U. S.
Philadelphia

From / Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.r
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Jan. 24.
Rec'd Feb. 6. 1841

New Orleans Jan 25th 1841

Dear Sir

I saw Mr Bronson yesterday and took a receipt of him for the money collected for the Jews, of which the above is a duplicate. He wished me to mention to you that he had not effected any sales yet, but had some prospect of doing so. He expects to leave here in about 10 days,

Something new occurs every day in the Mint — the fact of Dr Riddells having attributed a part of his loss, to the dirty, greasy state of my clippings, renders it necessary for him to give me a great deal of trouble, in making it appear that he believes the assertion to be true. But I sincerely believe that he has gained by my clipping, rather than lost. I suppose Dr Patterson is aware that I pickle my dime & half dimes in the strip, by which I should think they would be refined half a million. I have made experiments on the dirtiest clippings which I have been obliged to deliver to him, and could never believe that they contain to the utmost extent, more than 15. or 20 hundredths of an ounce in one thousand. and ordinarily not over $\frac{5}{100}$ which I think is more than ~~or~~ compensated for by the refining in ordinary an=nealing and at all events, by the pickling of the dime & ½ dime strips. There is one fortunate circumstance which is, that he cannot apply the same excuse to his loss on the gold, for the Gold Clippings have always been delivered perfectly bright and free from the least particle of dust. while they have been pickled at least 4 times, and the last time heated nearly to redness, to free them from any moisture which they might contain —

The Secretary of the Treasury, has drawn on us for $80.000. of the Government deposite, at a time when we have not a dollar in readiness — Mr Cammack, has induced one of the Banks to deposite $100.000 &c in order to facilitate our opperations untill the drafts can be paid, of which 2 melts of $20.000 have been made. The first of which fell down to 893. the second to 894 which is so out of all expec=tation or reason that the Cashier of the Bank will not submit to it. and the remainder of the deposite, is ordered not to be melted

Mr Cammock tells me, he has no confidence in the Melter & Refiner since he went into the Melting room one morning when a Sub-Treasury deposite was being melted (a part of the one spoken of by Dr Patterson) and discovered them shoveling in several large strips of copper with the dollars. and on calling Dr R. he declared that it had got in there by mistake &c

All the officers are summoned to court to day by one of Dr Riddells workmen (whom he has lately discharged) on account of a bill he claims of. about $60. for keeping his books, which he says he has done evenings. and which Dr R is unwilling to allow him for. we shall soon see how it will come out

I am straining every point in my department to meet our present exegencies — But unfortunately am obliged to work with old dies, in reality unfit for use I think I have never been properly supplied, although Dr P. has always sent them immediately when written for. but the Supt sometimes neglects to write for them untill we are almost entirely out — perhaps I have not done as well with them as Dr Patterson expected. But I have one consolation, that I have allways been improving in tempering them, untill I have in many instances exceeded the amount given by Dr P. as the proper number for them to stamp. I think it but reasonable that we should have in the early part of the year, at least 6 pair of each kind in advance, which would be of great advantage in fitting up &c — I have tried my Governor again in presence of all the officers. it does not vary 5 revolutions per minute by any of the ordinary operations — and when it does vary. it seems faster when the operations are heaviest, which can be obviated by good adjusting (Yours P.B. Tyler

(From/ P. B. Tyler, Esq.
N. Orleans,
Jan. 25/41.

(Feb. 6.)

To
M. W. Baldwin Esq
Broad Street Philadelphia
Pa

NEW [illegible] JA 25

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans January 30. 1841

Sir,

I have the honor to send you a number of documents containing all the information desired in your's of the 4th instant. The multiplicity of business in the Treasurer's Office has prevented their being sooner prepared. We have given you on the [illegible] of the gold deposited during 1840 "the loss allowed in melting"; with regard to the silver we have selected the 2nd and 4th quarters of the year as "including all the varieties of deposite." You will also find enclosed a copy of a letter addressed to me by Dr. Riddell, which originated in a remark of mine, that his wastage was much larger than I had expected it would have been.

Some of our late deposites of Mexican dollars have run very low, one indeed, from the Exchange Bank, as low as 878. It is impossible for me to account for it in any way, except by the supposition that they must contain a large number of counterfeits. I have not the slightest ground to suspect any one employed in the Mint. If your experience should suggest any mode of detecting any error that might be committed in the melt

Statement of Bullion 1840

Coiner

	ounces, dec.
Silver Bullion delivered to him in 1840	1.126.199.56
On hand weighed 1839 returned 1 Jany 40	25.021.80
On hand 31 Decr 1840 returned 1 " '40	9.621.65
Wastage Claimed	650.32
Gold Bullion, Delivered	30.378.349
weighed 31 Decr 1840 returned 1841	544.45
Wastage Claimed	14.695

Melter & Refiner

Silver Bullion Delivered to him	1.137.487.25
On hand 1839. returned 1 Jany 1840	5.464.39
On hand 1840 returned 1 Jany 1841	37.695.30
Wastage Claimed 1840	2.000."
Gold Bullion Delivered in 1840	31.823.102
On hand 1840 returned 1841	1.343.086
Wastage Claimed	63.646

Silver alloy for Gold Claimed 300.

Gold Coinage $217.500 Oz 11.690 1/10 alloy 1169 oz

Silver 1/4 292

Statement of Gold deposites 1. 2 & 3 quarters 1841.

Nos.	Description of Bullion	Weight before melting		Weight after melting		Fineness	
✓ 8.	Lump of Gold	10	·14	9	·90	380	
✓ 9	American Gold	7	·53	7	·53	965	
✓ 10	ditto	11	·46	11	·43	560	
11	German Coins	11	·16	11	·15	897	
✓ 12	Lump Gold	17	·81	17	·48	348	
✓ 13	One piece Gold	24	·30	24	·25	599	
14	Sovereigns	143	·43	143	·28	913	
15	German Coins	15	·62	15	·61	890	5.
16	10 Spanish doubloons	8	·68	8	·67	866	
17	10 Columbian do	8	·68	8	·67	863	
18	Coins	8	·77	8	·76	883	
19	Mixed Coins	14	·19	14	·18	863	
20	70 Columbian doubloons	60	·81	60	·76	863	5
21	Sovereigns	76	·78	76	·77	915	.
22	Sovereigns	127	·90	127	·80	913	5
23	American Gold	66	·96	64	·91	981	
24	Gold Cont^{d} in Silver	"	"	"	"		
25	Mixed Coins	48	·48	48	·46	879	·5
26	Mixed Coins	24	·20	24	·16	873	
27	Mixed Coins	68	·21	68	·17	870	
28	~~86~~ Amn doubloons	173	·67	173	·13	866	
29	Sovereigns	77		76	·98	913	5
30	Mixed Coins	26	·07	26	·05	857	
31	ditto	18	·45	18	·42	879	
32	one bar Gold	17	·47	17	·43	492	
✓ 33	do.	17	·38	17	·34	548	
✓ 34	3 bars amn Gold	47	·47	47	·44	585	
✓ 35	1 bar amn Gold	9	·–	8	·99	984	5
36.	Mixed Coins	36	·49	36	·47	864	
37.	Sovereigns	89	·70	89	·67	913	5
38.	Mixed doubloons	492	·68	492	·53	864.	

39	doubloons	258	64	258	58	864
40	Mexican Gold	18	44	18	42	832
41	doubloons	77	26	77	22	867
42	Mixed Coins	50	41	50	38	867
43	10 Mexican doubloons	8	68	8	67	869
44	32 Mex: & Colmb. do	27	76	27	74	864
45	Mixed doubloons	34	76	34	74	864
46	Columbian doubloons	347	32	347	22	868
47	Mixed doubloons	99	70	99	67	866
48	Mixed coins	77	41	77	37	868
49	old Amn Coins, Carolna gold	7	28	7	27	911
	coins	12	22	12	20	838.5
50	10 Mex: doubloons	8	68	8	67	868
51	Colum: & New Grana do	34	74	34	72	870
52	Mixed & Colmba. do	60	77	60	75	864
53	Mixed Coins & Jewelry	11	45	11	01	748
54	Mexn Doubloons	44	27	44	26	870
55	Do	47	77	47	74	866
56	Mixd.. Do	77	06	77	02	869
57	do	75	49	74	66	863.5
58	Mex: & Colmb. doublns	169	44	169	04	868
59	Mixed Coins	58	76	58	71	885.5
60	Mex & S. A. doubloons	197	16	197	02	868
61	Mexican doubloons	26	04	25	82	872
62	doubloons & Sovereigns	13	23	13	21	880
63	Gold in Silver					
64	Sovereign, old Eagles & 20 & 40 franc pieces	64	46	64	45	912 ~~866~~
~~63~~	Mexican doubloons	171	54	171	51	866
65.	Mexican doubloons	17	87	17	85	868
	Columbian doublns	105	93	102	90	867

Statement of Gold Deposites, received at the Branch Mint of the United States, at New Orleans, during the 4th qr. of 1840.

Number	Description of Bullion	weight before melting. –		weight after Melting		Fineness
67	Sovereigns,	332	68	332	65	915.
68	Mexican & Columbian doubloons	2.479	51	2478	56	866.
69	Gold dust from S. America	500	40	491	90	935.
70	Sovereigns,	713	28	712	53	915.
71	French Coins	226	61	226	46	895.
72	Sovereigns, Guilders & Eagles	90	55	90	48	913.
73	German Coins	38	96	38	91	893.
74	Mixed Coins	85	92	85	87	882.
75	Mexican doubloons	6	07	6	06	866.
76	Sovereigns	20	38	20	35	915.
77	French 20 franc pieces	269	42	269	34	899.
78	Sovereigns, Franc pieces & Thalers	156	76	156	66	901.
79	Mixed Coins	14	19	14	17	894.
80	Alabama Gold dust	25	48	24	25	958.
81	German Coins.	55	86	55	82	891.
82	German Coins.	17	92	17	90	887.
83	Mexican Gold Balls.	46	20	45	82	842.
84	German Coins.	17	06	17	04	890.
		5097	25	5084	77	

Statement of Silver deposites, received for Coinage at the United States Branch Mint at New Orleans, during the Second Quarter of 1840.

No.	Description of Bullion	Fineness	Gross Weight		Weight after Melting	
171	Mexican Dollars	897	86	90	86	75
172	Hammered Dollars	897	804	95	803	35
173	Mexican Dollars	896	86	75	86	50
174	Hammered Dollars	881	818	40	816	75
175	Silver Plate	852	112	00	108	20
176	Hammered Dollars.	883	469	40	469	00
177	Mexican Dollars	897	262	30	262	10
178	Do. Do.	897	825	70	824	85
179	Do. Do.	897	86	60	86	50
180	Do. Do.	897	8.029	40	8.022	35
181	Hammered Dollars	867	158	60	158	00
182	Jewelry Silver Plate	852	448	00	444	00
183	Mexican Dollars	897	158	50	158	35
184	Do. Do.	897	103	40	103	25
185	Hammered Dollars	888	86	20	86	05
186	Mexican & mixed Coin	895	935	70	932	05
187	Mexican Dollars	895	172	80	172	60
188	Hammered Dollars	895	331	40	331	35
189	Mixed Coins	896	130	10	129	80
190	Mexican Dollars	896	86	55	86	45
191	Mexican Test Bottoms.	988	239	20	238	70
192	Hammered Dollars	896	378	50	377	70
193	Do. Do.	903	841	80	840	60
194	Mixed Coins	889	86	75	86	65
195	Hammered Dollars	896	268	75	268	35
196	Mexican Dollars	900	86	85	86	75
197	Do. Do.	896	176	20	176	00
198	Mixed Coins	884	116	00	115	55
199	Spanish, Mexican, & Hamm.d Dolls.	890	85	00	84	70
200	Mexican Dollars	894	188	95	188	75
201	Spanish & Mexican Dollars	897	85	75	85	65
202	Mixed Coins	897	241	35	241	10
203	Mexican Dollars	897	124	65	124	55
204	Do. Do.	897	86	30	86	20
205	Do. Do.	898.5	8.676	95	8.669	45
206	Silver extracted from Gold dep. No. 34	333.	17	55	17	55
207	Mexican Dollars	897	606	70	606	00
208	Mixed coins & Old Jewelry	873	107	55	105	50
	Carried forward		26,610	45	26,570	00

	Brought Forward			26.610	45	26.570	40
209	Mexican	Dollars	897	201	30	201	
210	Mexican & Mixed	Dollars	894.6	8.668	00	8.660	50
211	Mexican	Dollars	897	1.155	70	1154	30
212	Do	Do	897	262	60	262	35
213	Do	Do	898.6	8.675	30	8.667	80
214	Mexican	Test Bottoms	988	310	20	309	15
215	Test Bottoms & 11 Countfts Mex dolls		958	303	30	302	00
216	Hammered	Dollars	884	123	90	123	55
217	Mexican	Dollars	897	606	85	606	25
218	Mexican & mixed coins		900 & 897	681	05	680	35
219	Hammered	Dollars	885	260	00	259	20
220	Mexican	Dollars	897	86	60	86	50
221	Do	Do	897	87	00	86	90
222	Hammered & Mixed Dollars		870	140	70	140	50
223	Mexican	Dollars	897	406	80	406	10
224	Mexican	Dollars	897	86	20	86	10
225	Do	Do	897	248	75	248	55
226	Mixed	Coins	891	127	15	126	80
227	Hammered	Dollars	878	100	15	99	80
228	Mexican	Dollars	897	433	05	432	65
229	Mixed	Coins	894	102	85	102	35
230	Silver	Plate	878	104	70	103	20
231	Mexican	Dollars	897	17.348	75	17.333	75
232	Do	Do	897	107	40	107	30
233	Mexican	Test Bottoms	942	643	50	639	50
234	Do	Do	980	666	45	662	15
235	Mexican	Dollars	897	86	55	86	45
236	Mixed	Coins	788	149	75	149	25
237	Do	Do	898	233	60	233	30
238	Mexican	Dollars	897.5	8.678	60	8.671	10
239	Do	Do	896	867	10	866	95
240	Do	Do	897.5	8.678	90	8.671	40
241	Mexican	Test Bottoms	965	924	60	917	40
242	Mixed	Coins	905	85	95	85	80
243	German	Coins	839	163	50	163	05
244	Mexican	Dollars	897	86	70	86	60
245	Mixed	Coins	682	140	60	135	75
246	Mexican	Dollars	897.5	17.346	05	17.331	65
247	Mixed	Coins	897	85	80	85	70
248	Mexican	Dollars	897	86	70	86	60
249	Mixed	Coins	897	99	80	98	90
	Carried Forward			106.262	90	106.127	90

	Brought Forward		106.262	90	106.127	90
250	Spanish Pistareens	898	399	50	399	00
251	Mixed Coins	897	259	75	259	30
252	Mexican Dollars	897	86	65	86	55
253	Do Do	897	129	90	129	75
254	Mixed Coins	850	229	40	227	50
255	Mexican Dollars	897.5	17.406	35	17.391	30
256	Do Do	897	86	60	86	50
257	Spanish Pistareens	812	151	85	151	50
258	Mexican & Spanish Coins	897	2.630	65	2.628	35
259	Mexican Dollars	897	86	90	86	80
260	Do Do	897	12.975	10	12.963	83
261	Do Do	897.5	4.335	70	4319	91
262	Do Do	899	13.012	55	13.001	30
263	Do Do	899	2.598	85	2596	60
264	Do Do	897	86	90	86	60
265	Do Do	897	433	00	432	60
266	Mexico Dollars	898	227	70	227	35
267	Do Do	895	87	30	87	20
268	Mexican Dollars	897	86	35	86	25
269	Do Do	897	16.444	80	16.431	60
270	Do Do	897	1.734	50	1732	75
271	Mixed Coins	868	153	40	153	00
272	Mexican Dollars	897	248	60	248	35
273	Do Do	897	1,735	50	1734	00
274	Test & Bottoms.	984	700	80	699	05
			182.591	50	182.374	84

Statement of Silver deposites, received at the Branch Mint of the United States, at New Orleans, during the Fourth quarter, 1840.

No.	Description of Bullion	Fineness	Gross Weight		Weight after Melting	
338	Mexican Dollars	897	432	30	431	90
339	Mexican Test Bottoms	980	918	15	917	00
340	Hammered Dollars	877	754	70	752	00
341	Mexican Dollars	897	86	40	86	30
342	Mexican Dollars	897	1038	35	1037	55
343	Hammered Dollars	890	82	90	82	20
344	Mexican Dollars	897	694	00	693	40
345	Old Jewelry Mexican	833	347	10	338	20
346	Mixed Dollars	896	116	20	116	00
347	Mexican Dollars	897	176	20	176	00
348	Mexican Dollars	897	2599	90	2599	15
349	Mexican Dollars	897	26.025	40	26.002	90
350	Mexican Dollars	897	93	80	93	70
351	Mexican Dollars	897	867	30	866	55
352	Mexican Dollars	897	867	50	866	75
353	Mexican Dollars	897	867	50	866	75
354	Mexican Dollars	897	867	60	866	85
355	Mexican Dollars	897	867	45	866	70
356	Mixed Coins	865	254	20	253	45
357	Mexican Dollars	897	88	10	88	00
358	Mixed Coins	893	1747	50	1.743	20
359	Mexican Dollars	897	2602	90	2600	65
360	Mexican Dollars	897	121	30	121	15
361	Mexican Dollars	897	86	40	86	30
362	Mexican Dollars	897	173	90	173	75
363	Mexican Dollars	897	173	40	173	25
364	Mexican Dollars	897	867	20	866	45
365	Mexican Dollars	897	867	60	866	85
366	Mexican Dollars	897	867	60	866	85
367	Mexican Dollars	897	867	50	866	75
368	Mexican Dollars	897	870	70	869	95
369	Hammered Dollars	865	162	25	161	90
370	Mexican Dollars	897	174	00	173	80
371	Mexican Dollars	897	90	00	89	85
372	Mexican Dollars	897	157	30	156	15
373	Mexican Dollars	897	86	75	86	65
374	Mexican Dolls & Silver plate.	889	97	10	94	22
375	Mexican Dollars	892	272	30	271	70
	Carried forward		48.520	75	48.270	35

	Brought Forward		48.320	75	48.270	35
376	Mexican Dollars	897	1.302	45	1.301	30
377	Mixed Coins	897	82	80	82	70
378	Mexican, Sp. & S. Am. Dollars	897	454	15	453	75
379	Mexican dolls. & Silver plate	880	92	95	92	75
380	Spanish Sana Dollars	896	466	60	466	10
381	Mexican Dollars	897	440	00	439	50
382	Mexican Dollars	897	4337	50	4333	75
383	Hammered Dollars	877	90	50	89	65
384	Mexican Dollars	897	96	80	96	70
385	Mexican Dollars	897	108	00	107	90
386	Mexican Dollars	896	26016	55	25.994	05
387	Mexican Dollars	897	86	15	86	05
388	Mixed Coins	878	179	20	178	90
389	Spanish & Mexican Dollars	897	173	00	172	80
390	Mexican Dollars	897	869	30	868	55
391	Mexican Dollars	897	867	50	866	75
392	Mexican Dollars	897	4333	90	4330	15
393	Small cut Coins	895	93	70	93	50
394	Spanish ½s & ¼s & Mex. ½ dolls	895 & 896	17.841	90	17.826	23
395	Mexican Dollars	897	85	90	85	80
396	Mixed Coins	888	231	05	230	60
397	5 franc pieces	900	15.016	65	15.005	55
398	Mexican Dollars	897	86	75	86	65
399	Mexican Dollars	897	86	65	86	55
400	Mexican Dollars	897	250	60	250	35
401	Mexican Dollars	897	434	70	434	30
402	Mexican Dollars	897	86	85	86	75
403	Mexican Dollars	897	86	60	86	50
404	Mexican Dollars	897	89	15	89	05
405	Hammered Dollars	883	286	70	285	50
406	Mexican Dollars	897	866	30	865	55
407	Mexican Dollars	900	173	30	173	10
408	Hammered Dollars	865	442	80	441	10
409	Mexican Silver plate	850	298	60	288	50
410	Hammered Dollars	879	280	35	279	20
411	Hammered Dollars	888	502	45	500	00
412	Mexican Dollars	897	433	50	433	10
413	Hammered Dollars	870	211	00	210	00
414	Spanish quarters	897	81	85	81	45
415	Jewelry in Bars	812	103	30	101	40
416	Mexican Dollars	897	86	60	86	50
417	Hammered Dolls. Spa. quarters	876	146	50	146	20
	Carried forward		126.621	85	126.483	25

	Brought forward		126.621 86	126.428 36
418	Mexican Dollars	897	845 00	824 20
419	Mexican Dollars	895	26.029 20	26.006 75
420	Mexican Dollars	897	86 70	86 60
421	Mexican Dollars	897	348 90	346 25
422	Mixed Bullion	890	156 70	156 40
423	Hamm.d Dolls & Spanish's	868	284 25	282 25
424	Mexican Dollars	899	172 90	172 70
425	Hammered Dollars	897	252 40	250 25
426	Spanish Dollars	897	191 70	191 50
427	Mexican Dollars	897	86 70	86 60
428	Mexican Dollars	897	86 60	86 50
429	Mexican Dollars	897	866 10	865 25
430	Mex.n Dolls & 5 Franc pieces	897	861 70	860 90
431	Hammered Dollars	892	92 60	92 00
432	Mexican Dollars	897	130 00	129 55
433	Mexican Dollars	897	346 10	345 50
434	Mexican Dollars	897	173 10	172 90
435	Mexican Dollars	897	86 50	86 40
436	Mexican Dollars	897	86 10	86 00
437	Mexican Dollars	897	501 85	501 35
438	Mexican Dollars	897	178 50	178 35
439	Mexican Test Bottoms	984	2300 10	2284 40
440	Mexican Dollars	897	455 00	454 60
441	Mexican Dollars	897	86 00	85 90
442	Mexican Dollars	897	86 60	86 50
443	Mexican Silver plate	850	685 80	679 80
444	Mexican Dollars	897	867 50	866 75
445	Mexican Dolls & Silver plate	868	116 70	115 70
446	Mexican Dollars	897	545 10	544 60
447	Mexican Dollars	897	86 20	86 10
448	Bars Mex.n Silver & cut change	897	118 80	117 90
449	Mexican Dollars	897	86 70	86 60
450	Mexican Dollars	897	94 80	94 70
451	Mixed Coins	875	118 70	118 20
452	Hammered Dollars	890	88 20	87 95
453	Mexican & Hamm.d Dolls	898	869 10	867 00
454	Mexican Dollars	899	86 50	86 40
455	Mixed Coins	896	12.485 40	12.474 65
456	Mixed Coins	899	115 55	115 00
457	Mexican & Hamm.d Dolls.	898	112 40	112 25
458	Hammered Dollars.	892	205 20	204 85
	Carried forward		178.073 85	177.868 85

	Brought Forward		178.073	85	177.861	45
459	Hammered Dollars	881	926	20	924	50
460	Hammered dolls & small bars	873	109	20	108	60
461	Hammered Dollars	884	170	20	169	50
462	Mexican Dollars	898	86	70	86	60
463	Hammered Dollars	879	1063	70	1061	80
464	Hamm^d dolls & Pistareens	863	135	40	135	10
465	Mexican Dollars	897	86	60	86	50
466	Mexican Dollars	897	867	00	866	25
467	Mexican Dollars	895	17.327	30	17.312	30
468	Mexican Dollars	895	108	45	108	35
469	Mexican Dollars	897	86	40	86	30
470	Mexican Dollars	897	671	20	670	60
471	Mexican Dollars	897	418	30	417	90
472	Mexican Dollars	897	86	40	86	30
473	Mexican Dollars	897	163	80	163	65
474	Mexican Dollars	897	867	80	867	05
475	Mexican Dollars	895	8656	00	8648	50
476	Mexican Dollars	897	173	20	173	00
477	Mixed Coins	893	171	10	170	50
478	Hammered Dollars	888	109	40	109	00
479	Mexican Dollars	897	172	80	172	65
480	Mexican Dollars	897	173	60	173	45
481	Mexican Dollars	906	175	75	174	40
482	Mexican Dollars	897	86	80	86	70
483	Mexican Dollars	897	173	40	173	25
484	Mexican Dollars	897	161	20	161	05
485	Mexican Test Bottoms	982.980 983.983	2772	40	2757	90
486	Mexican Silver plate	860	262	50	261	50
487	Mexican Dollars	897	86	20	86	10
488	Mexican Dollars	897	1139	70	1038	70
489	Mexican Test Bottoms	983	205	60	204	50
490	Mexican Dollars	897	123	40	123	25
491	Mexican Dollars	897	867	00	866	25
492	Mexican Dollars	897	477	75	477	30
493	Mixed Dollars	895	86	30	86	20
494	Mexican Dollars	897	93	00	92	90
495	Mexican Dollars	897	1688	00	1686	50
496	Mixed Coins	892	99	40	98	45
497	Mexican Dollars	897	3035	25	3032	60
498	Mixed Coins	876	183	00	182	60
499	Mexican Dollars	897	87	50	87	40
500	Mexican Dollars	897	86	50	86	40
	Carried Forward		222.495	05	222.223	00

	Brought Forward		222.495	05	222.223	00
501	Mexican Dollars	897	86	75	86	65
502	Mexican Dollars	897	86	40	86	30
503	Mexican Dollars	897	173	50	173	35
504	Mexican Dollars	897	173	05	172	90
505	Mexican Dollars	897	173	50	173	35
506	Mexican Dollars	897	173	10	172	95
507	Mexican Dollars	897	172	80	172	65
508	Mixed Coins	897	434	60	434	20
509	Mexican Dollars	897	86	70	86	60
510	Mexican Dollars	897	86	50	86	40
511	Mexican Dollars	897	262	00	261	75
			224.403	95	224.130	10

8

Reported assays of Ingots. 1840.

33	900.4	70	899.9	120	898.6		898.6		899.5
	900.4		898.2		898.		898.6		898.6
	899.5		898.		900.4		899.5		898.
	901.3		901.3		900.4		899.5		902.
	899.		899.5		898.6	160	901.7		899.5
	898.6		898.6		901.		898.6	210	901.7
	901.2		900.4		898.6		899.5		901.7
40	900.4	80	898.		898.6		899.5		900.4
	900.4		899.9		899.		899.		898.
	900.8		901.7	130	898.		899.		900.8
	899.		898		898.6	171	900.4		901.3
	899.		898		899.		898.2		898.6
	898.6		898		898.		898.6		899.5
	898.6		898.6		898.2		899		898.2
50	901.		901.3		899.9		898.6		900
	898.6	90	898.6		898.2		901.3	220	900.8
	902.		898.6		898.2		898.6		899.9
	899.05		900.4		899.5	181	898.2		899.5
	899.05		898.6	140	899.5	183	902		899
	899.05		898.6		899.5		898		899
	898.02		900.4		899.	192	901.7		899
	898.2		900.4		898.8		900.8		899.5
	899.		898.6		898.8		901.7		899.5
60	899.9		899.		898.2		898.2		898.2
	899	100	898.		901.3		900.4		900.
	899		898.2		898.6		898.6	230	901.3
	898.6		898.6		899.5		898.2		901.5
	901.7		898.6	150	899.5		898.2		899.5
	902.		898.6		900.4	200	900.4		899.9
	900.4		898.6		898.6		901.3		901.7
	898.6		898.2		900.		901.3		901.3
	899.9		900.4		899.5		901.7	240	898.
			898.6		898.6		898.		898.

898.6
899.5
899.5
900.4
899.5
251 900.8
899.5
898.2
900
900
900.8
898.2
901.3
260 899.5
900.4
899.9
900.4
899.5
900.8
898.4
271 899.9
900.2
900.4
900.4
900.4
~~900.4~~
899
902
902
280 899
899
899.7
900.4
899.5
898.6
899.9

902.
898.6
899.
290 898
900.8
899.
900.4
898.6
898.6
898.2
902.
899.9
300 901.7
900.4
901.3
901.3
899.5
899.5
900.4
898.6
899.9
899.5
310 898.6
899.5
899.5
899.5
898.6
899.
899.9
900.4
901.3
320 900.4
901.3
901.3
323 901.3

up to 323 are small melts.

Big Spot

324 899
898.2
899
899.
899.5
898.
330 898.
899.5
899.
899.
899
898.2
898.6
898.6
898.6
340 899.5
899.
898.2
898.6
899.5
898.5
898.8
899
898.6
900.
350 900
899
899
898.4
900
899.7
898.6
899.5
900.

25 May. 1840

360 900
899
899.5
898
900
899
899
898.2
898.6
899.
370 899
900
898.8
899
898.8
898.6
898.6
899.
899
900
380 900
899

Some numbers missed. failures in melting.

Gold

1. 899.5
899.5
899
900
899.5
899
900.5
12 901
900.5
900
900.5
900
900
901
901
20 900.7
900
900
900
900
899.5
899.
900
901
29 899

25) 22500.2

Average — 900.008

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Jan. 30.
Rec'd Feb. 12. } 1841.

New Orleans February 3rd 1841.

Mr Tyler

Sir on the 27th ulto I wrote governor White at Washington and as the letter I wrote him, touches you, I deem it fair that you should know the contents which is to this purpose as I have a rough sketch of what I wrote him before me

Honble E D White

My Dear Sir From the first establishment of the Branch Mint in this city being a friend of some of the officers (for I was one of the sureties of Edm Foristall the first treasurer) and felt a pride in seeing such an establishment in our City, and being often at the Mint, I have anxiously watched its movements and progress up to the present day. The coiner has about three fourths of all the work of the establishment to perform

A Mr Tyler a Machinist from Philadelphia was the first Coiner and a brother of his had been some time in our employ, as chief engineer, on the N. Orleans & Nashvile rail road.

While I was presidend protem; of this rail road Mr Tyler asked and obtained permission to attend his brother then laying sick at the Mint, who finally died,

At this time James H Caldwell president of the N. Orleans & Nashville rail road Company, and myself, recommended Philos B Tyler (from our knowledge of him) to succeed his deceased brother as Chief Coiner of the branch Mint here, which situation he now fills, and if he is what I suppose him to be an honest Man! he certainly is an acquisition to the establish; for he is a superior Machinist, and a very industrious Man to effect ~~to effect~~ what he has done since there and keep all things in such good order as they are now in.

From the first start, a great deal of difficulty has attended governing the engine to produce a regular speed, for when great power was wanted for half a minute ~~more~~ or less, aside rolling, and then a small power for about the same time only sufficient to drive the Coiners and planch cutters, the speed of the engine would vary from 40 up to 70 revolutions in a minute & vise versa, and render its very difficult for the planch man or planch cutter to keep correct time with the planch cutter which if he fails to do, one piece or planchet would rob the next of a piece or portion that belong to it and render it incomplete or perhaps the bar would be passed too far leaving the space between each piece too large and thereby make less planchets than was intended, and in either case remitting reworking and loss of labour attends the operations. and besides which, such an alternate impetus in motion, strains the engine and jars the building—

I visited the mint last friday, saw the machinery in full opperation, and was highly gratified to witness the operation of a new governor invented and made by Mr Tyler, for this engine (for which he will probably apply for a patent)— it is an ingenious article simple in its application and I believe will overcome all former difficulties—
It had been in operation two days
He also showed me a new Machine invented and made by himself for Milling the edge of coins—which in the present Mode of doing it, is a slow business—this is a beautifull article and I think will do the work intended (it is not yet in operation) and if he succeeds in his ~~[illegible]~~ expectations this Machine will Mill 6 or 8 fold faster than the ordinary Method—I see nothing to prevent his success—one thing is yet wanting, and that is a machine to govern the feeding of the plate or bars to the planch cutters—that each piece may be cut whole and entire—so as to loose nothing of the plate that can be worked
He seems confident that he can make a machine that will effect this object—and not only do this but be a great saving of labour, (if he cannot I think I can)
Some of my friends here wish me to apply for the situation of superintendent of the Branch mint in this city, and for that purpose have drawn up a few lines in form of a recommendation to the president of the United States, and two or three have signed it, and handed it to me to transmit to your care, which I will forward shortly
Touching sureties. James H Caldwell and my noble self have been obliged to take the N. orleans & Nashville railroad on our shoulders to the tune of $12.000 or $16.000—in duty bonds to the custom house, on our rail road iron—or it would have been smashed long ago—it is an ass's load but we must paddle our own canoe and trudge it—
with my best respects to Madam White and family
I salute you with great esteem and respect—

S. T. Perry—

To Governor E D White

Philos B. Tyler Esqr
chief coiner of Branch Mint
New Orleans

Favd/ J. Berry, Esq
New Orleans
Pr/ Mr. P. B. Tyler.

New Orleans February 4th 1841

To the Director of the United States Mint

Sir.

We beg leave to reccommend our Fellow-Citizen. Daniel Dana. as being well qualified for the Superintendence of the Branch Mint in this city. From our long acquaintance with him. we feel a special confidence in his integrity and ability, and that he will perform the duties of that office with industry and faithfulness.

We therefore request that you will present him to the favourable notice of the President.

Theodore Clapp

Wm
W. Freret
mayor
Wm. DeBuys

From

Messrs. Th. Clapp }
Wm. Freret }
Wm. De Buys }

New Orleans,
Feb 4/41.

Rd. 20th.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans February 7. 1841

Sir,

I send you the Statement of our operations for January, which was handed to me yesterday morning.

I also enclose, at the request of Mr. Cammack four gold coins which were assay'd a few days since at his instance, together with the report of Dr. Hort. Will you be good enough to give Mr. Cammack credit for the value thereof – You now have an opportunity, if you think proper to embrace it, of testing the accuracy of Dr. Hort's assay –

Respectfully
Yr. Obedt. Servant
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the
Mint of the U. S.
Philada.

P. S. We are anxiously looking for our dies.

from
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq,
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Feb. 7/41.

Recd. 20th.

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 10, 1841.

Sir,

I have placed to your Credit, in my Account, under this date, $220.,- being the amount received from you in gold coins for the Annual Assay, and $141.10,- the amount received in silver coins for the same purpose;- in all $361.10.

In your letter of the 23d ult., you send me a list of certain items, from your ordinary account, suspended at the Comptroller's office. These are all, except one, for expenses incurred in the investigation conducted by District Attorney Thomas Slidell, and respecting which I had thought that full explanations were given to the Treasury Department. The excepted item is for $535.43, for two drafts drawn on me, by Edmund Forstall, and which, it seems, he neglected to enter in his books. On this subject, I have only to state that the drafts were in the ordinary form, were paid, and duplicate vouchers taken,- the originals sent to New Orleans, the others now in my possession.

R. M. P.

(L

To/ H. Cammack, Esq.
Treasy Br. Mint
New Orleans.

To/

H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasr. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Feb. 10. 1841.

Mint U.S.

Feb. 11th, 1841.

Sir, ~~Wm~~

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ult.

I am uneasy about the wastage account at your Mint, and wait, with anxiety, for the statement asked for in my letter of the 6th ult., and with which you mention that Mr. Cammack is occupied. — I defer making any remarks on this matter until this report is received; but I will call your attention now to ~~the circum~~ one item in the wastage account which must not be overlooked. It is the estimate of the sweep on hand. While Dr. Riddell was here, he acquired the necessary information for making an assay of the sweep, and it is necessary that a valuation of it should be made by him in conjunction with the Assayer. With this estimated value his account for 1840 must be credited, ~~and as the s~~ the sweep being, in form at least, transferred to the Treasurer; It is afterwards ~~tt~~ transferred back to the Melter & Refiner, and his account debited with the same estimated amount.

The second list of repeated assays of gold coins deposited for coinage, sent with your last letter, renews the astonishment caused by that which you sent me before. We cannot comprehend the strange variation from all our experience. You ~~give~~ estimate sovereigns at 914 while we find them 915½ full. You ~~give~~ estimate 20 & 40 franc pieces at 895, while we find them 899; &c.

~~I have been~~ ~~I am~~ You know that we were equally struck with what seemed to us to be an undervaluation of silver coins, particularly Mexican dollars. What is your more recent experience? As your deposits are now melted down for assay, it is important that you should be convinced that this operation is performed faithfully. The Treasurer is, under the law, the officer primarily responsible in this case, and, if he be not entirely without ~~doubt~~ suspicion as to the hands employed, he should take care to exercise over them the utmost vigilance.

The annual assay was held here on the 8th inst. I subjoin the results as to the ~~fine stan~~ ~~variations from~~ standard of fineness.

Philadelphia Mint. — ~~Std~~ Gold 899.5
Silver 899.7

New Orleans Mint.—	Gold	901.3
	Silver	898.2
Charlotte Mint.—	Gold	900.2
Dahlonega Mint.—	Gold	900.3

You will observe that the variations from standard were greatest at your Mint. The gold being in excess may find its explanation in the undervaluation of the deposits; but how are we to account for the defect of nearly two millièmes in the silver?

The trial of weights, for your coin, was very satisfactory. The gold pieces corresponded exactly with the legal ~~weight~~ standard; the silver pieces exceeded it by only 0.004 oz in 121.258 oz.

R. M. P.
D

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Feb. 10. 1841.

Mint of the United States.
February 12th, 1841.

Sir,

Your report, in answer to my letter of the 20th ult. has been received, and will call from me a full reply. I now write to make a request, as to question of the title of Mexican dollars, — a most important point as to which there is so great a difference between the reports from your Mint, and the experience of ours.

It is my wish that Mr. Cammack should procure, if possible, a deposite, — not too small, — of Mexican dollars, and cause it to be melted under his own inspection, and cast into bars; and that from these bars, assay-slips be cut, and one set tested by Dr. Hort, and another sent to us.

It will be understood that I ask this trial of Mr. Cammack, instead of Dr. Riddell, because it belongs, under the law, to his proper official duty; — the deposite not being transferred to the Melter, until after it is reported upon by the Assayer.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Feb. 12/41.

Mint of the United States.
Feb. 17th, 1841.

Sir,

Your communication of the 30th of January, in reply to my letter of the 4th, was received by me on the 12th inst. It gives rise to the following important inquiries.

1st. Have the interests of depositors been duly protected, in the assays of their bullion?

2d. Have the interests of the government been duly protected, in the annual settlement of the Melter and Refiner, at the close of the last year?

I ~~first~~ shall consider these questions in their order.

1. Valuation of deposites.

From the returns which you have furnished me of the assays at your Mint, during the second and fourth quarters of 1840, it appears that Mexican dollars are generally rated at 897 thousandths fine, though there are variations from 900 to 893. ~~The last~~ Your letter states, however, that recent deposites were very low,— one especially as low as 878.

In the experience of this Mint, Mexican dollars formerly averaged 896 fine; and were so reported as a general rule. In 1837 they showed a tendency upwards, so that, from August of that year to the present time, they have been habitually rated at 897, and we very rarely lose a melt of ingots from these dollars thus estimated.

~~The Mexican coinage has not such a homogeneous character as we could desire, nor as is found in that of most other countries, —~~ The different mints of Mexico are not ~~not being~~ brought, ~~as here~~ like ours, under a common organization, and repeated experiments show that there is a characteristic difference in the quality of their coinage; and although, in commerce, they are always found mixed up together, yet, as the proportions cannot be the same, there must be variations in the average fineness. The principal coinage, however, brought to the United States, is from the Zacatecas mint, where dollars average from 895 to 897; all the others are above this from 3 to 5 thousandths, except those from Guadalaxara, which, until 1836, were as debased and irregular as hammered dollars, but which then seemed suddenly to return to their integrity, and ~~by~~ thus caused the slight improvement found in the medium quality of Mexican dollars.

If your further experience still shows a depression in the fineness of ~~Mexican~~ these dollars, it will be interesting to ascertain ~~whether~~ which of the Mexican mints is principally in default. It is possible that old Guadalaxara dollars, and even counterfeits, may be more common with you than with us.

In regard to British sovereigns, it appears that in the early part of the year, you reported them at 913 and 913½ fine; but more recently at 915. In the experience of this Mint, sovereigns are exceedingly regular in their fineness, and always bear a report of 915½. This is an inconsiderable variation from your latest reports; but such results as 913 or 913½ would occasion much surprise and perplexity here, especially as we have never seen any counterfeits of this coinage.

In a former letter I expressed my surprise at seeing a deposite of French gold coins rated by you at 895. I ~~find~~ observe ~~see~~, however, from the statements now sent on that you find these coins ~~now~~, as we do, 899. I presume there must have been some peculiar and unexplained reason for defect in the former deposite.

2. Melter & Refiner's Wastage Account.

It appears that in the settlement of this account at the close of the year, the Melter & Refiner claims wastage ~~of~~ on 1,137,487 ounces, to the amount of ~~2000, being~~ 2000 ounces, — equal to 1.7 thousandths, the legal limit being 2 thousandths.

The annexed statement shows the amount of wastage required by the M. & R. in this mint, in his silver account, for four years past.

Year	Ounces delivered.	Wastage in oz.	Proportion in thousandths.
1837	2,855,486	4197	1.5
1838	3,430,050	6189	1.8
1839	2,088,097	2728	1.3
1840	1,483,374	1121	0.75

It appears, then, that Dr. Riddell's wastage does not differ differ materially ~~exceed~~ from that at this mint during the three first of these years. ~~It is the signal reduction of wastage here, in the year just elapsed, that makes a comparison so disadvantageous to your Mint.~~ It is only on a comparison of the wastages for the year just elapsed, that your Mint appears to great disadvantage.

A frequent necessity of re-melting ingots tends to increase wastage, and it seems that in 1840, out of 349 melts, 50 were condemned, with you; while here, 40 only were condemned out of 887.

Mint of the United States.
Feb. 17th, 1841.

Sir,

Your communication of the 30th of January, in reply to my letter of the 4th, was received by me on the 12th inst. It gives rise to the following important inquiries.

1st. Have the interests of depositors been duly protected, in the assays of their bullion?

2d. Have the interests of the government been duly protected, in the annual settlement of the Melter and Refiner, at the close of the last year?

I ~~pro~~ shall consider these questions in their order.

1. Valuation of deposits.

From the returns which you have furnished me of the assays at your Mint, during the second and fourth quarters of 1840, it appears that Mexican dollars are generally rated at 897 thousandths fine, though there are variations from 900 to 893. ~~The lat~~ Your letter states, however, that recent deposits were very low,— one especially as low as 878.

In the experience of this Mint, Mexican dollars formerly averaged 896 fine; and were so reported as a general rule. In 1837 they showed a tendency upwards, so that, from August of that year to the present time, they have been habitually rated at 897, and we very rarely lose a melt of ingots from these dollars thus estimated.

~~The Mexican coinage has not such a homogeneous character as we could desire, nor as is found in that of most other countries.~~ — The different mints of Mexico are not ~~not being~~ brought, ~~as here~~ like ours, under a common organization, and repeated experiments show that there is a characteristic difference in the quality of their coinage; and although, in commerce, they are always found mixed up together, yet, as the proportions cannot be the same, there must be variations in the average fineness. The principal coinage, however, brought to the United States, is from the Zacatecas mint, where dollars average from 895 to 897; all the others are above this from 3 to 5 thousandths, except those from Guadalaxara, which, until 1836, were as debased and irregular as hammered dollars, but which then seemed suddenly to return to their integrity, and ~~by~~ thus caused the slight improvement found in the medium quality of Mexican dollars.

If your further experience still shows a depression in the fineness of ~~Mexican~~ these dollars, it will be interesting to ascertain ~~whether~~ which of the Mexican mints is principally in default. It is possible that old Guadalaxara dollars, and even counterfeits, may be more common with you than with us.

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In a former letter I expressed my surprise at seeing a deposite of French gold coins rated by you at 895. I ~~find~~ ~~see~~ observe, however, from the statements now sent us that you find these coins ~~now~~, as we do, 899. I presume there must have been some peculiar and unexplained reason for defect in the former deposite.

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It appears, then, that Dr. Riddell's wastage does not ~~differ~~ differ materially ~~exceed~~ from that at this mint during the three first of these years. ~~It is the signal reduction of wastage here, in the year just elapsed, that makes a comparison so disadvantageous to your Mint.~~ It is only on a comparison of the wastages for the year just elapsed, that your Mint appears to great disadvantage.

A frequent necessity of re-melting ingots tends to increase wastage, and it seems that in 1840, out of 349 melts, 50 were condemned, with you; while here, 40 only were condemned out of 887.

But it appears that in the settlement a most important item is omitted, to which I have already called your attention. The sweep has not been returned; and yet in the letter of the M. & R. this item is estimated at from 800 to 1200 oz., though he states that the avails cannot be known until after March next. Now, as our M. & R.'s sweep, out of 1,483,374 oz., yielded 1216 oz., yours would, at the same rate, yield 925; so that your real wastage would be reduced to 1075 oz., or less than one thousandth, — a proportion quite satisfactory, and which must still be introduced into the appropriate year; for if it goes over to the next, as has been proposed, perplexity and misapprehension are seen to be the consequence, — and, moreover, the law would not be complied with.

I should have been the more surprised at a large ~~the~~ silver wastage, as the deposits ~~are~~ appear to have been received at a low title, and both our annual assay and your ~~ingot~~ report show that the ingots ran below the true standard.

The wastage claimed for gold is 63.646 oz. on 31,823 oz., being exactly the full limit of the law.

For the last four years, there has been no deficiency in our M & R's gold account, and therefore no wastage asked. The same thing has occurred at the Branch Mint in Georgia; and though at first view a surprising result, can be ~~satisfactorily~~ readily accounted for. ~~and, as it takes off a burden from the Government, without doing any injustice to the depositor~~

There is a circumstance stated in your report which makes the large wastage claimed for gold still more surprising. It is well settled here, that the deduction for dirt, on gold coins, should never exceed three-tenths of an ounce on a thousand ounces; sometimes, on clean coins, we have made it less. Now you had, out of 84 deposites, 71 in foreign coins. These 71 deposites weighed

before melting	8248.95
after "	8243.79
	5.16
Proper loss at 3/10 th ꝑ thousand	2.47
Excess	2.67;

thus making the loss ~~more th~~ double of what we think it should be.

It ~~is asserted~~ would seem, however, ~~that~~ from the correspondence, that this large wastage is, after all, only apparent, and is "claimed as a matter of safety, for want of time to work up the gold grains;" and the M. & R. "thinks it possible that he may have something to report to the credit of the Mint;" — that is that there may be, in the end, no wastage. ~~at all~~ The danger and illegality of the course pursued, in this account, require no comment. It is easy to see that there has been, in fact, no settlement, at all, except on paper; and this is made the more manifest from the circumstance that the claim on the silver account is the exact round number of 2000 oz., and that on the gold account the exact ~~mathematical~~ amount necessary to keep within the legal limit of 2 millièmes.

~~You will see, from~~

The most objectionable item in the M&R's account is his claim for "silver alloy for gold," amounting to 300 ounces. The gold coinage of the year amounted to 11,690 oz. One-fourth of one-tenth, (the proportion of silver aimed at,) would give 292 oz.; The actual content, by assay of the reserved pieces for the annual assay, was 26 millièmes, which would make 304 ounces. The claim, therefore, could only be justified on the supposition that all the gold deposited for coinage was of fine bars. Now your reported returns show that the deposites are of a kind requiring no addition of silver, having enough in themselves; so that the M&R's claim, on this account, cannot be allowed; unless, indeed, there be some explanation to give in the case, which does not suggest itself to my mind. It is true that your depositors ~~have~~ may, in a few instances, have been chargeable for some silver alloy, — and such is also the case at this Mint; but the charge accrues to the benefit of Government, ~~not of the~~ without being any ~~cost~~ loss to the M & R, whose business it is so to combine the silvery and coppery deposits, in making his ingots, as to arrive, as near as he can, at a well-proportioned alloy.

My ~~impression~~ advice, on a view of the whole case, is that you should cause the wastage-account of the Melter & Refiner to be opened anew, and that it be now credited with all the bullion &c. which he actually delivered to the Treasurer, together with the estimated value of his silver & gold sweeps, and of any grains &c., belonging to last year, which may have been since recovered. With such a course carefully and faithfully pursued, I believe that the M & R's account will appear much less to his disadvantage than according to the artificial statement presented. As to the claim for silver alloy, it is my present opinion that it cannot be allowed, and that it will not be needed.

Your Melter & Refiner offers ~~two~~ three reasons in excuse of the largeness of his silver wastage, of which it may be proper for me to take some notice.

The first is that the Mexican dollars were rated too high, — namely at 897. This implies that he had many remelts to make from such deposits, and that he had to add fine silver, from his own stock, to bring them up. There were, in fact, 50 melts condemned out of 349; but I am not informed whether these were too high or too low, or whether they were made from Mexican dollars. Of our 40 remelts, 12 were too high, and 28 too low, and very few of them were from dollar melts. It is usually the bars which we find it difficult to keep within bounds.

The second reason given is a "loss of weight on silver clippings received;" ~~the~~ and he thinks this loss equal to 1½ oz. per thousand. — This matter has been repeatedly put to the test here. It is found that silver clippings, annealed, or burnt off, and afterwards pickled, lose from 12 to 15 dwts per thousand ounces, in the pickling. The dollar and half-dollar clippings are always delivered after ~~annealing~~ being passed through the annealing furnace, but without being pickled; they are therefore free from grease and dirt, but coated with oxide of copper. On melting the copper is revived and the oxygen lost. Now the oxygen is but one-fifth of the weight of the oxide, that is about 3 dwts. The estimated loss of 30 dwts is therefore ten times more than we make it by our experiments. Moreover the loss, such as it is, occurs only on the larger clippings, as those from small coins are returned clean. The loss, on this ground, is therefore so small that the allowance for it, formerly made, has, as you know, been abolished, as unworthy of notice.

The third reason given by your M&R for his wastage is the want, till lately, of suitable apparatus for working his grains, and "the want of sufficient experience." These reasons are valid, and the more important one is probably the latter. Happily every day is serving to diminish it, and I am sure that we may look forward, with confidence, to more satisfactory results ~~than appear~~ hereafter, than appear on the face of the last wastage account. It seems ~~have given~~ evident ~~my reasons~~, however, ~~for believing~~ that this account does not exhibit the whole truth, and that when properly presented it will be much more favorable to the Melter & Refiner.

R. M. Patterson
Director.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

P.S. In settling anew the gold wastage account, ~~the following items of information~~ it may be useful for you to know that Dr. McClintock's gold sweep, on 105,917.56 oz produced 16.4 oz., so that your gold sweep, for the last year, would, at the same proportion produce 4.92 oz. It is probable, however, that both your gold & silver sweeps are richer than ours. The grains, of last year still unrecovered by the M&R. must be, however, the most important item.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Feb. 17, 1841.

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From
The Assayers of the Mint.
Feb. 16/41.

—

Remarks on the Correspondence relative to the Deposites, and the Wastage, at the New Orleans Mint.

In relation to the papers forwarded from the Branch Mint, at New Orleans, the two following inquiries seem to cover the whole ground of complaint or difficulty;—

1. Have the interests of depositors been duly protected, in the assays of their bullion, so far as it concerns Mexican dollars, and British ~~and French gold coins?~~ Sovereigns?

2. Have the interests of the Government been duly protected, in the annual settlement of the Melter & Refiner, on 31st December, 1840?

In answer to the first question.— From the returns of assays at the Branch Mint, during the 2d and 4th quarters of 1840, it appears that Mexican dollars are ~~almost invariably~~ generally rated at 897 thousandths fine; ~~In one instance~~ though there are variations, from 900 to 893. The letter of the Superintendent states, that recent deposits run very low; one especially, as low as 878.

In the experience of this Mint, Mexican dollars formerly averaged 896 fine, and were so reported, as a general rule. In 1837, they showed a tendency upwards; so that, from August of that year, until the present time, they ~~were safely and~~ have been habitually rated at 897. We very rarely lose a melt of ingots from Mexican dollars.

The Mexican coinage has not such a homogeneous character as we could desire, nor as is ~~actually~~ found in that of most other countries

It is not difficult to account for this fact. The General government of Mexico fixes the standards of coinage, for the whole nation, and has a mint, at the capital; but the States also have mints at their capitals, uncontrolled, and entirely independent of each other. In this respect they have no analogy to the Mint system of this country. Now it appears, from repeated experiments, that there is a characteristic difference in the fineness of dollars from the respective Mints, besides some irregularity of each Mint, within itself. It is not necessary here to go into a detail of these experiments; it is sufficient to say, that the difference is not heeded, probably not known, in commerce, & therefore the dollars are always found mixed up together. To make sure of a thorough mixture, it is our practice, on receiving a considerable deposit, to empty the boxes all at a time, and scatter the pieces amongst each other. With this care, we find them to average 897 fine, and to keep very well within working limits.

The reason why the average was bettered, within the past 3½ years, was, that Guadalaxara dollars, which, until 1836, were as debased, and as irregular, as hammered dollars, seemed suddenly to return to their integrity; and being diffused in the mass, of course caused this slight improvement. – However, the principal coinage is executed at the Zacatecas mint, where dollars average from 895 to 897; all the others being above this, 3 to 5 milliemes.

It is not unlikely that counterfeits, and old Guadalaxara dollars are more prevalent in that region, than here, and that the deposits may be depressed from these sources. – However, we hear of arrivals at N. Orleans from Vera Cruz & other Mexican ports with cargoes of coin, and one would naturally expect, that as they lie nearer than we do to the great laboratories of this coin, they would get the freshest and fairest specimens. – ~~At any rate, as it was known at the Branch Mint, that 897 was the constant report here, and as uniformity is so desirable an object, it seems surprising that the Assayer did not immediately report this downward tendency of the coins, and endeavour, by every means, to satisfy himself as to the cause of it. As the case stands, it is only brought out by the complaints of depositors, & the interposition of other officers of the Branch.~~

~~Our experience in the gold coins now called in question, is still more at variance with that of the Branch Mint.~~

In regard to British sovereigns, it appears that in the early part of the year, they were reported at the Branch Mint, at 913 and 913½ fine; but latterly, at 915. – In the experience of this Mint, sovereigns are admirably regular in their fineness, and always bear a report of 915½. This is a trivial variation, ~~indeed~~, from the report at the Branch, in late cases; but such results as 913 or 913½ would have occasioned much surprise and perplexity here. – We have never seen any counterfeits of this coinage. –

In answer to the second inquiry.

It appears that in the settlement of the Melter and Refiner's silver account, he claims wastage on 1,137,487 ounces, to the amount of 2000 ounces; equal to $1\frac{7}{10}$ thousandths. The legal allowance is 2 thousandths.

The annexed Statement shows the amount of wastage required by the Melter & Refiner here, in his silver account, for four years past.

	Ounces of Silver.	Wastage, in ozs.	Proportion, in thousandths.
~~1836.~~			
1837.	2,855,486.	4197.	$1\frac{5}{10}$
1838.	3,430,050.	6189.	$1\frac{8}{10}$
1839.	2,088,097.	2728.	$1\frac{3}{10}$
1840.	1,483,374.	1121.	$0\frac{75}{100}$

It appears then, that his wastage does not materially exceed that of this Mint, ~~for~~ (in proportion) during the years '37 '38 and '39. It is the signal reduction of wastage during the year just elapsed, that makes a comparison with the Branch Mint so disadvantageous to the latter. If our reduction is to be ascribed to improved processes, to the absence of the more wasteful manipulations, to greater facilities for collecting the sweeps &c. ~~and~~ then, in proportion as these are applicable to the Branch Mint, a corresponding reduction ought to be expected there.

It is to be observed, that a frequent necessity of re-melting ingots, tends to increase wastage, both in amount and in proportion. It seems that in 1840, out of 349 melts, 50 were condemned; while here, out of 887 melts, 40 were condemned.

But notwithstanding all that has been remarked so far, the most important consideration remains to be stated; & that is, that the M&R has not returned his sweeps in the annual settlement, but has considered them as if of no importance. Yet in his letter, they are appraised at 800 to 1200 ounces of Silver; & states that the avails cannot be ~~kn~~ known until after March next. Now, as our M&R's sweep, out of 1,483,374 ounces, yields by estimate 1206 ounces, and as we need not consider that at the Branch Mint to be poorer, an estimate of 1000 ounces (Standard Silver), the medium of the two extremes above quoted, seems a fair one, for the Melter & Refiner there. On this basis, his

Wastage of Melter & Refiner in 1840.

Gold 0.000

Gold sweep in 1840 16.400

16.400 = on 105,917.56 to 0.154 th

Silver Wastage 1,120.85, on 1,483,373.75 oz. = 0.755 th

" Sweep 1,206.33

2,327.18 on 1,482,169.42 " = 1.570 th

1483374 : 1206 :: 1137487 : 105,917 : 31,823 :: 16.4 : 4.9

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                 1137487
                    1206
                 6824922
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              1137487
1483374      1371809322 ( 925.
             13350366
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Memorandum
of the value of Dr.
McClintock's Sweep
in 1840.

real wastage has been about 1000 ounces, equal to $\frac{9}{10}$ of one thousandth, of what was delivered to him; a proportion which would be very creditable. Still, it ought to appear in its appropriate year; for if it goes over to the next, perplexity & misapprehension are sure to be the consequence; and besides, the law is not complied with.

The wastage claimed for gold, is 63.646 ounces, on 31,823 ounces; being the full allowance of the law, even to a mathematical nicety.

For the past four years, there has been no deficiency in our Melter & Refiner's gold account, & therefore no wastage asked. — The same thing has occurred at the Branch Mint in Georgia; and though at first view a very surprising result, can be satisfactorily accounted for; and as it takes off a burden from the Government, without doing any injustice to the depositor, speaks well for the skilful management of the officer.

There is a circumstance which makes this claim for gold wastage at the Branch, still more unsatisfactory. It is well settled here, that the deduction for dirt, on gold coins, should never exceed $\frac{3}{10}$ths of one ounce, (six dwts.) per thousand ounces; sometimes, on clean coin, we have made it less. ~~Now, on casting up the returns of weights before & after melting (or deduction in gross in melts)~~ Now there ~~was~~ were, of 84 deposits, 70 in foreign coins. These 70 deposits weighed

before melting 8248.95 ounces
after " 8243.79
Loss — 5.16
Proper loss, at 3/10 per thousand, 2.47
Excess, — 2.69. making the loss more than twice what it should be.

But it ~~appears~~ seems that this large wastage is only *apparent*, and is "claimed as a matter of safety, for want of time to work up the gold grains." The danger, and the illegality of such a mode of settlement, requires no remark here. – ~~He thinks~~ The M&R "thinks it possible that he may have something to report to the credit of the Mint" – that is, no actual wastage, but rather a surplus.

It is easy to see, that there was no settlement at all, except on paper, and that the whole matter ~~is~~ was indefinitely postponed until after the first of March, when the sweeps ~~will~~ are to be ready to ship to New-York.

In point of principle (not of amount) the most material difficulty occurs, in a claim made by the M&R, for which no explanation is offered. It is that of "silver alloy for gold," amounting to 300 ounces. – The gold coinage of the year amounted to 11,690 ounces. One-fourth of one-tenth, (the proportion of silver aimed at) amounts to 292 ounces. The actual content, by assay of the reserved pieces, for the annual assay, is 26 millièmes, which would make 304 ounces.

But in fact, the whole claim is preposterous. Looking over the returns of deposits, it is evident that they ~~contain~~ are of a kind requiring no addition of silver; they have enough in themselves. True, in a few instances, the depositor would be chargeable for some silver alloy; ~~but~~ and so it is at this Mint; but the charge accrues to the benefit of Government, not of the M&R, whose business it is so to combine the silvery and coppery deposits, in making his ingots, as to arrive as near as he can, at a well-proportioned alloy.

Our M&R was, in 1837 (and not since) allowed 379 ounces of silver, for alloy. But the circumstances entirely justified it. He received, in fine bars of commerce, 16,000 ounces standard; and it all came upon him at once – that is, between March 17th & April 22d; so that he had little chance of mixing ~~his~~ silvery deposits with it. The silver alloy requisite for this, would be 400 ounces fine, or 445 ozs. standard. The depositors paid for this; & if it had all gone into the meltings, the govt. would have lost nothing. Yet it appears, that the M&R found it necessary to ~~charge~~ claim only 379 ounces, and so saved 66 ounces to Government.

None of these fine bars appear in the list of deposits at the Branch Mint; and in fact, there ~~appears~~ is no ground whatever for the ~~such a claim~~ claim in question, unless some satisfactory explanations remain to ~~are~~ be made.

P.S. The three reasons, ~~upon~~ which the M&R at the Branch offers, for his silver wastage being so large, ought to have been noticed in their proper place. A brief review of them here may be proper.

1. The dollars being rated too high, i.e. at 897.

This implies, that he had many re-melts of ingots to make, and to add fine silver from his own stock, to bring them up. There were, in fact, 50 melts condemned, out of 349. But we have no record to show whether these were too low, or too high; or whether they were made from Mexican dollars. Our re-melts, out of 887, were 40; of these 12 were too high, & 28 too low; and very few of them were from dollar melts. It is usually the _bars_ that we find it difficult to keep within bounds.

It appears then, that we have not sufficient data to decide whether this reason has weight or not.

2. "Loss of weight on silver clippings received." The M&R's experiments

them, oblige him to infer that the loss is 1½ ounces per thousand.

This matter has been repeatedly put to the test here. It is found that silver clippings, annealed & afterwards pickled, lose 12 to 15 ~~6~~ dwts. per thousand ounces in the pickling. The doll. & ½ doll. clippings are always delivered after annealing, & not pickled; they are therefore free from grease and dirt, but coated with oxide of copper. The accession of oxygen, is one-~~third~~ fifth of the bulk of oxided copper; that is, ~~not quite 2~~ 3 dwts. and this is about what the M & R gets, with his Clippings of the larger kind. His estimate is 30 dwts — ~~just ten~~ about ~~sixteen~~ ten times what we make it. — But again, his reason only applies to the larger clippings; those from small coin, are returned perfectly clean.

This second position, then, amounts to very little; so little, that an allowance, which was formerly made here, on this score, has for two years or more, been abolished, as unworthy of notice.

The third reason, which speaks of the want of a grinding machine in the early part of the year, and in general, "the want of sufficient experience" &c. — we need not remark upon. —

P.P.S. Perhaps it is worth while to ask how it happens, that in the accounts current of the Treas: with the M & R, the round sum of 2000 ounces of silver, and the nice sum of 63.646 ounces of gold, just fit in, to square the accounts? Do these allowances actually leave the accounts ~~without~~ balanced?

Mint U. S.

Feb. 23d, 1841.

Sir,

Your letter of the 7th inst., with the report of ~~your~~ the operations of your Mint for January, was duly received.

The gold pieces forwarded by you have been twice carefully assayed by Mr. Eckfeldt, and, on the last occasion, with a comparative test-piece of pure gold. The following is the result.

Coins.	Dr. Hort's Assay.	Mr. Eckfeldt's assay.	Excess
Louis XVIII, 1814	898.5	900.	1.5
Napoleon, 1810	896.5	898.8	2.3
Louis Philippe, 1840	897.5	898.5	1.0
Sardinian, 1826	896.5	896.8	0.3

The differences are remarkable, and make an inquiry into their origin very important. Does Dr. Hort make an allowance for surcharge, that is for silver remaining after the action of the nitric acid? If so, how much? Is he in the habit of using, occasionally, a test assay of pure gold? If not, this would be very advisable, especially whenever he gets a new lot of acid. I hope no pains will be spared by Dr. Hort to find the cause of what I cannot but consider the errors of his assays, so that they may be avoided in future.

The excess (above standard) of your gold at both the last annual assays, ~~corresponds~~ tends, with the results now found, ~~in showing~~ to confirm the apprehension that there must be an habitual defect in Dr. Hort's gold assays. The matter, however, being now brought fully into his view, I have no doubt that he will find the means of ~~see~~ correcting the error.

I have seen Dr. Hort's publication, in the New Orleans papers, on the subject of base Mexican dollars. Such coins have been long known to us here, especially a variety under the name (I know not why) of White River dollars; but they have never been met with in such quantity as sensibly to affect the value of large deposits. If ~~such~~ the contrary is, in fact, frequently the case, now, with you, the evil is a great one, and must affect very injuriously the operations of your Mint.

R. M. P.
D

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint
New Orleans.

P. S. The weight of the coins transmitted by you was 0.65 oz., which I have considered as standard, & have therefore credited Mr. Cammack with their value, $12.09

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Feb. 23, 1841.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Feb 27. 1841.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of two pair of 1/2 dollar dies.

The following dies of 1840 have been cancelled in my presence by cutting a cross on their face.

1/2 Eagles — 1 pair
1/4 Eagles — 2 do
✓ Dimes — 7 do and 1 Extra tail
✓ 1/2 dimes — 8 do
✓ 1/4 dollars — 3 do and 1 Extra tail
✓ 1/2 dollars — 7 do and 4 Extra tail

Those reserved are as follows:

1 1/2 dime head die
✓ 1 1/4 Dollar head die
✓ 1/2 Eagles 1 pair
✓ 1/4 Ditto — 1 pair —

I beg leave to call your attention to an extract from a report, recd by me a day or two ago from our Coiner.

" We have now no dime, 1/2 dime or 1/4 dollar
" dies except the single head die of each sent us in
" January last, all of which are now much wanted,
" and I would advise sending for three pairs of each
" denomination with one or two extra tails for each. *
" Also 4 or 6 pair of 1/2 dollar dies as we have only
" one good pair of that denomination, and one

" or two extra heads, which will probably last us till
" the beginning of next month. If the above call for
" dies can be supplied, it will relieve us from frequent
" embarrassments."

In accordance with your request, I have directed a Melt of Mexican dollars to be made in the presence of Mr. Cammack. Pieces shall be cut from the bars as you desire and sent to you together with the report of the assays made by Dr. Hort.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your obedt Servant
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esquire
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Phila.

New Orleans March 3d. 1841

Dear Sir

On the reciept of the Philada. Ledger from you. I called on Mr Snethen, the Editor of the Advertiser, who is my particular friend, and requested him to copy the "*Extraordinary performance*" piece, and to make a correction of the credit given to Norris's engine &c which he willingly consented to do. But in attempting it gave an erroneous impression, which you will see by the first piece which I sent you — He offered to make another notice of it. but fearing he did not understand the proper bearings of the subject. I wrote the piece in yesterdays paper, which I sent you. intending to have your advertisement on the card of your last new engine, inserted as a continuation of the remarks but did not see the Editor when I left the papers at his office, and it was omitted. I can occasionally do something more in the same way if you deem it beneficial

I understand that a letter was recieved yesterday by our Supt. from Dr Patterson, of six pages, concerning the Melter & Refiner &c. I have thought Dr Patterson will naturally suppose Riddell will resign when he finds any action upon the facts to become too disagreeable for him. but, I beg he will understand that Dr Riddell has no delicacy of feeling in the matter, and will never resign while there is a possibility for him to remain; He says he can answer every word of Dr Pattersons letter satisfactorily — the three letters were sent ~~in~~ to him yesterday morning by Mr Kennedy who was much troubled — when Dr Hort was called in for consultation. It since appears that the Dr. has made another great discovery. by which he accounts for a great portion of his gold wastage, & by which Dr Patterson is to be implicated — at least so it comes to me from Mr Cammack, as having been told to Mr Kennedy in secret — Well. he has discovered by chemical analysis. that the acid sent to Dr Hort by Dr — Patterson, is wrong! some way. so that his gold ingots were not credited to him. for so much, by one ounce in a thousand, as their real value. or that the acid had led the assayer into an error of one or two Millions in the assay of his gold ingots — Mr Kennedy enters into it all with a great deal of sympathy. and believes all they tell him, and is highly pleased that the Dr has made the discovery. notwithstanding they were to make such great use of it against Dr Patterson — But it appears to me that such a shallow hoax, will not pass very current, after it gets beyond the deep comprehension of Mr Kennedy — For will not every body see, that although the acid may be wrong, it cannot effect the Melter & Refiners account, who has received the gold bullion from an assay made with the same acid, and consequently it must be the depositor who has lost. And, thus if they possess the means now, of ascertaining the quality of the acid, was it not the duty of the assayer to have done so before using it, or at least when depositors complained of the low standard of gold deposites, whose standard had been established by long experience — — — Dr Hort —

had Dr Pattersons report here, long before we had it through the papers. It was sent him ~~through~~ by Mr Benton.

I received an impudent letter from Mr Martin yesterday, urging the payment of the money due him for the childrens schooling — I shall send you the money to pay him as soon as I get it.

I wish you would inform Dr Patterson of the discovery in the acid. I presume he will understand it better than I do.

I beg you will lose no opportunity of securing the appointment of Mr Dana, in case Mr Kennedy should resign, or be removed by the New Administration —

The family are all well — Remember us at home.

Sincerely Yours

Philos B. Tyler

M. W. Baldwin Esq
Philada.

Fr P. B. Tyler
N. Orleans.
Jo March 3/41.

Mar 25.

Pd

To M. W. Baldwin Esq
Broad Street
Philadelphia

NEW ORLEANS
MAR 3

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans March 4. 1841

Sir,

I enclose the Statement of our operations during the month of February, at the close of which Mr. Tyler had ¼ Dollar, Dime, and ½ Dime planchets, amounting together to $36.000, which he was unable to Stamp, for the Want of those denominations of dies.

I will, in the course of three or four days, reply to your communication of the 17th ult.

Very respectfully
Your obedt. Servt.
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqre
Director of the Mint
of the U. S.
Philada.

From/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

March 4, 1841.
Rec'd " 23, "

(Report for February
1841.)

New Orleans March 5th 1841

Dear Sir:

As I have been confined to the house to day from being poisoned by some plant in our garden, I have had a call from Mr Cammack, who wished to consult with me in relation to the affairs now transpiring at our Mint. He left with me the masterly letter of Dr Patterson's, to Mr Kennedy, in which I am gratified to see how ably he compasses the subject. I notice that in relation to some of the circumstances of which I wrote, I was not fully acquainted with all the facts; But, that it was my intention to give a true statement of circumstances as they appeared to me, I think Dr Patterson will have no doubt. Mr Kennedy will probably answer all the questions of Dr Patterson, but I deem it advantageous for him to be acquainted with some of the Springs of action in this important matter. consequently shall communicate to you occasionally, such knowledge, as may come within my reach.

Mr Cammack says, that Mr Kennedy requested him yesterday, to give a statement of his settlement made with Dr Riddell, at the close of the year 1840 and all the circumstances, as they transpired in relation to it, with his opinion of the, with his opinion of the justness of Dr Riddells claim for wastage &c, to which he replied, that there were no transactions, which

Mr K. had not been fully acquainted with. at the time, and then he mentioned the bar of silver containing gold which was not enumerated in Dr Riddells statement. and which did not finally make any alteration in his claim for wastage. Mr Kennedy mentioned it to Dr Riddell, who soon called on Mr Cammack, and said he hoped he would not mention that circumstance in his report to Mr Kennedy. Mr Cammack replied. that he hoped it would not be necessary, but if Mr K. actually required him to make the statement which he had verbally requested. that, as that was noted somewhere on his books. he should be obliged to communicate it. Dr R. gave his reasons why it should not be related. as because some of the other parcels were found next day. to fall short. enough to correspond with the statement. But Cammack says he shall do his duty. I asked him if he remembered well, what he mentioned to me of finding 2 strips of copper in the box with the mexican dollars. which were to be melted for the Sub Treasury deposits. He says he reported it at the time, to Mr Kennedy. and will report it in writing if requested. — In relation to this you will understand, that Cammack was disappointed in the result of his mexican dollars. a part of which had the day before been melted, and was strolling through the Melting room in the morning, when Riddell did not expect him, and when the dollars were in the in act of being poured into the pot. when he discovered the copper as related in my previous letter. — Mr Cammack says. he had a serious conversation with Mr Kennedy yesterday and asked him his real opinion of Dr Riddell. When Mr K. replied. that he truly believed that Dr Riddell had claimed a larger amount of wastage, than he required, through a dishonest motive. but that it was not his place to make complaints against the officers. though should any information be called for making it his duty to answer, he should answer plainly. But on Mr Cammack's telling him that his view of his duty would not meet the expectations of the government. he replied. that he was sick of the whole affair. and would not be troubled much mo with it. Still Mr C. thinks. that if Dr Patterson will a Mr K. his view of Dr R. confidentially. that he will pronou him dishonest and unfit for the place, but that at present, he was trying to put all the responsibility upon Mr Cammack. From previous circumstances it may appear to you that I make these remarks with the view of Mr K. But while I solemnly disavow the intention of giving any erroneous impression, I cannot suppose they will redound to his honour. nor can I help thinking how differently, the person whom I have recommended to the office, would act in the same situation. for I know so well his high sense of justice and honest independence that I think that even Cammack would feel that there was an eye upon him.

does Dr P. know that we are in want of dies —

Yours sincerely — R.B. Tyler

M W Baldwin Esqr }

over

P.S. Please inform me if you think it is agreeable or otherwise to Dr Patterson, for me to communicate these things to you in this way —

M. W. Baldwin Esq
Broad Street
Philadelphia

PAID
NEW ORLEANS
MAR

From/ P. B. Tyler,
New Orleans.
March 5, 1841.

(March 26.)

Branch Mint New Orleans
Treasurer's office March 10 · 1841. -

dear Sir

In conformity with your instructions, and the wish of Dr Patterson, Director of the mint at Philadelphia as expressed in a letter to you, I have procured a deposite of dollars - and have had it melted under my own inspection and cast into bars, from which the assayer cut in my presence, two setts of assay slips, one of which I send you herewith, and the other has been tested by Dr Hort who reports the fineness @ 893.7

The dollars were from two boxes of 1000 each taken indiscriminately from the vaults of my Sub Treasury fund, and were mixed with more than the usual number of South american dollars. They were well mixed together, and 500 ounces weighed out from them which, when melted, was cast into two bars - assays were taken from each bar, and they are reported at different rates, the one @ 892.4 and the other 895 making the average of 893.7 as above stated. Copy of the assay report is handed to you herewith.

It is my intention to have a similar melt made of dollars exclusively *Mexican*.

In a recent letter received by you from Dr Patterson, he remarks that, the Treasurer of the Mint is the officer primarily responsible for the faithful performance of melting down deposites for assay; and if not entirely without suspicion as to the hands employed, he should exercise over them the utmost vigilance

I do not understand how the Treasurer can be, in any manner, made responsible for errors or unfaithfulness in melting deposites. I am not aware that I have any control or authority in the melting department, or over the men employed therein. I have never exercised any whatever - and do not know what testimonials of character are possessed by the laborers in that department.

I hand you, as requested, the account furnished to me by the Melter & Refiner at the close of last year, shewing the amount of bullion, Gold & Silver, received & returned by him during the year, and a detailed statement of the amount returned for the purpose of making the annual settlement; with my account taken at the time the contents of his vault were delivered and weighed to me. These accounts contain Dr Riddells estimate of the proceeds of such sweeps and grains as he had not melted, which estimate was verified by trials of the assayer, as appears by his certificate annexed to the accounts.

By these various documents you will see that the annual settlement was made by me in conformity with law, and the instructions from the parent mint. This explanation as to the manner in which the sweeps and grains were estimated will probably place this point in a different view before Dr Patterson.

Owing to the various titles of the bullion & the confused state in which it was delivered, there was much trouble in making the settlement: every precaution for accuracy, was, however, taken by me, and assay certificates were required for all bullion that had changed form since it had left my custody.

I believe that I have alluded to such

matters

as require ~~on~~ comment from me . and I subscribe
myself your
faithful friend
H. C. Cammack
Treasurer

To Joseph M. Kennedy Esqr
Superintendent

Dr — The Treasurer of the Branch Mint, New Orleans, in acct with the Melter & Refiner. — Gold Bullion transferred during the year 1840. — Cr

1840			Ounces	dec	1840			Ounces	dec
January		To standard ingots delivered	0,000	000	January	31	By Bullion received	3,393	986
February	29	" "	3,457	510	"		" Clippings "	1,463	450
March	31	" "	3,096	270	February	29	" Bullion "	186	471
April	30	" "	2,065	560	"		" Clippings "	899	850
May	30	" "	3,540	090	March	31	" Bullion "	718	765
June	30	" "	3,569	080	"		" Clippings "	2,856	350
July	31	" "	3,609	890	April	30	" Bullion "	1,176	920
August	31	" "	1,044	830	"		" Clippings "	895	630
September		" "	0,000	000	May	30	" Bullion "	1,091	233
October	31	" "	940	280	"		" Clippings "	1,592	230
November	30	" "	6,391	190	June	30	" Bullion "	0,000	000
December	31	" "	2,661	670	"		" Clippings "	3,109	780
	"	To amount of bullion delivered			July	31	" Bullion "	285	710
		in annual settlement	1,383	088	"		" Clippings "	3,186	250
	"	" Wastage	63	646	August	31	" Bullion "	361	163
					"		" Clippings "	1,003	290
					October	31	" Bullion "	3,244	600
					"		" Clippings "	0,000	000
					Novemb.	30	" Bullion "	1,040	185
					"		" Clippings "	2,901	950
					Decemb.	31	" Bullion "	747	659
					"		" Clippings "	1,667	630
			31,823	102				31,823	102

New Orleans 31st Dec. 1840

J. L. Riddell, M&R

31 Decr 1840
Melter & Refiner
annual Settlement

BRANCH MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

No. 612 **AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.,** March 22d 1841

Silver Bullion deposited the 22d day of Mch 1841 by T. T. Wicks

Distribution.	No.	Gross Weight.		Fineness.	Standard Weight.	
		Ounces.	*Decim.*	*Thousandths.*	*Ounces.*	*Decim.*
Mexican dollars		500	05	896	497	82

Triplicate

To the Treasurar of the Mint.

I certify, that I have assayed the Silver Bullion, of which you have given the Gross Weight herein and that I find the same to be of the Fineness, and equivalent to the Standard Weight, expressed in the adjoining columns.

Wm. P. Hort
Assayer.

S.P. $579.28

Deductions made by the Treasurer

No Charge

N. 1.

Dr R.M. Patterson
Director of the U.S. Mint
Philadelphia

New Orleans. 17 March 1841—

Dear Sir

There is here a great scarcity of small change. many thousand Dollars have been deposited for several months at the New Orleans Branch Mint to be coined into Dimes and half Dimes which were long since prepared and cut, lacking only the Stamp, the daily reply to the applicants at the Mint has been for about two months that the Dies are expected by next mail, until they arrive the coin cannot be finished. Will you be pleased to look into this matter, and if the Dies for Dimes and half Dimes have not been despatched to cause them to be expedited as soon as shall be consistent with your Convenience.

Should any change take place in the Melter & Refiners department permit me to recommend to your notice & favour Peter Lovick, he was Mr Maxwell's foreman & in whose skill capacity integrity & industry Mr M had the fullest confidence, and often told me that he was fully competent to conduct the Melter & Refiners department. He passed through the yellow fever at the Mint in 1839. and had it most severely. I became acquainted with him during the investigation, he being a witness; his testimony as well as his manner of giving it made a favourable impression on my mind which induced me to recommend him to Mess Kennedy & Cammack as soon as they were appointed, and they have both since informed me several times that Mr—

Lovick merited my good opinion. I also recommended him to Doctor Riddell as soon as he was appointed, and the Doctor assured him that he should be continued foreman of this department so long as his conduct would merit the employment notwithstanding which he was dismissed in the course of a month or two without any cause of complaint, but merely to make room for the Doctors brother a person vastly inferior for the conduct of such business as I am informed, and as I should judge from the appearance of things about the department, and from results of deposits made for the purpose of coining. Messrs Kennedy & Cammack regretted this change and stated to me that they were not aware of any justifiable cause, the consequence was that Mr Tyler gave Mr Lovick employment in a subordinate situation in the Coiners department. It is unnecessary for me to tell you that public good requires that when meritorious men are found in the employment of Government, that they should be not only retained but on all fit occasions promoted; and nowhere is this more manifest than at the New Orleans Branch Mint.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Svt
Jacob Barker

PS Be pleased to consider this letter as furnishing information or suggestions for your individual use & not bring me into collision with any of the persons alluded to, on the former occasion my disinterested course in the cause of truth & public service was made a personal matter & subjected me to much inconvenience —

NEW ORLEANS
MAR
17

PAID 25

Dr R M Patterson
Director of the U.S. Mint
Philadelphia

From
Jacob Barker, Esq
New Orleans
March 17/41.
Rec'd 30th.

Mint U.S. —
Philada., March 31, 1841.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst.

Head-dies for dimes and half-dimes, ~~were~~ for 1841, were sent by me to the New Orleans Mint on the 21st of December, — the old tail-dies being ~~on hand~~ considered still sufficient. At this Mint, we have not yet used new tail-dies for the small coinage, and the dime die has struck more than 200,000 pieces. A requisition for new dime and half-dime dies was ~~sent to us~~ received by us on the 12th inst., (under date of Feb 27th.,) ~~and~~ the dimes were sent on the 24th., — the half-dimes are just ready. ~~to be~~

I have marked, with great attention, the remarks in your letter as to some other points connected with the New Orleans Mint. I thank you for the interest you have always taken in this matter, and will take care that it do not subject you to any personal annoyance.

R. M. P.

To/
Jacob Barker, Esq.,
New Orleans.

To/ Jacob Barker, Esq.
New Orleans.
March 31/41.

Mint of the United States,
March 31st, 1841.

Sir,

I have taken the liberty to send to you, by the present mail, a box containing a pair of half-dime dies, and directed, on the inner envelope, to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to whom I beg that it may be forwarded under your frank, as heretofore.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant.

To/
Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Secretary of the Treasury.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.
March 31/41.

March 1841,

Mint of the United States,
April 1st, 1841.

Sir,

I have taken the liberty to send you, by the present mail, a box of dies for the New Orleans Mint, properly directed on the inner envelope, — to be forwarded under your frank, as heretofore.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servt.
(Signed) R. M. P.

Mar 25 - 1 Pr. ½ dime ✓
31 1 " " "
" 1 " ¼ doll. } ✓
Apr. 1 - 2 " ½ "
" 5 - 2 " dime
" " 1 " ½ "

To
Hon. Thos. Ewing,
Secretary of the Treasury

(To) Hon. Thomas Ewing.
Sec. of Treasury.
Apr. 1/41.

April
1841

Mint U. S.

April 5, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending you, by the present mail, a box of dies, directed on the inner envelope to the Supt. of the Br. Mint at New Orleans, to be forwarded, as heretofore, under your frank. — Another box will be sent to-morrow.

R. M. P.
Dr.

To/
Hon. Thos. Ewing,
Sec. of Treas.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

April 5, 1841.

From/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

April 3,
Rec'd " 16. 1841.

April 1841

U. S. Branch Mint N. Orleans
April 7th 1841.

Sir,

I enclose our Statement for March, which was handed to me on the 5th instant. I kept it back for one day, intending as I mentioned to you in my letter of the 3d that it should be accompanied by a memorandum of the late assays made at our Mint. This promise I find I will not be able to fulfill for a few days owing to the quantity of business in the Treasurer's office, consequent always upon the close of a quarter.

Our coinage for March is very small, but this is accounted for by the fact of our having worked, at the commencement of it none but the half dollar press, (the small dies for which we had a large amount of planchets prepared, having, as I informed you in my last report given out before the end of February) and of our having been, for more than half the month, without any dies at all — We recd. on the fourth instant two boxes, containing 1 pr. of ½ dollar 1 pr. of ¼ dollar, and 1 pr. of dime dies, and another box is announced by the Secretary of the Treasury, as having been put in the Mail which left Washington on the 27th ult. It has not yet come to hand:

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
Your obed.t Serv.t
J. M. Kennedy
Supt

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the
Mint of the U. S.
Philad.a

From/

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

April 7, 1841.
Rec'd " 20. "

(Report for March.)

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of February 1841.

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Values before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces	dw	Ounces	dw	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:										
No deposites received this month										
Silver:										
No deposites received this month										

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:					
Half Eagles,	2.000	10.000	00		
				10.000	00
Silver:					
Half Dollars,	96.000	48.000	00		
Dimes	70.000	7.000	00		
				55,000	00
	168,000				
Total Coinage				65.000	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, February 27th. 1841.
H. C. Cammack
Treasurer.

From/
Philos B. Tyler, Esq.,
Coiner Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

April 19, 1841.
Rec'd " 29, "

U. S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans April 12th 1841

Sir,

Besides the box of dies noticed in my letter to you of the 7th instant, as not having come to hand, We have rec'd by this morning's mail, two others, the contents of the three being 1 pr. of ½ dollar, 1 pr. of ¼ dollar, and 2 pair of ½ dime dies. I have handed to Mr. Cammack the statement of your account with us together with the vouchers and have the honor to inform you that I send you by this mail, a document addressed to you thro' mistake at N. Orleans by the Comptroller of the Treasury Department, Mr. Barker.

am Sir, very respectfully
Yr. obedt. Servant
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director of the Mint
of the U. S.
Phil.

From
Jos. M. Kennedy
Supt. Br. Min
New Orle

Apr. 12. } 18
Rec'd " 22 }

New Orleans. 24 April 1841.

Dear Sir

I am in receipt of your esteemed favour of the 31 ulto. & am much obliged for the information it contains. One set of dies for Dimes were received, & produced only 140.000 pieces before they gave out, 4000 of which do not adjust well, therefore cannot be delivered until a further supply of dies are received.

Two sets of dies for half Dimes have also been received with which they are now at work, but they will not last for striking a moiety of those wanted. As yet my friends have not been enabled to get Dimes or half Dimes for Deposits made in Decr & Jany last: the demand here is very great, & if it could be promptly supplied without serious inconvenience to the public it would go far to popularise the Institution, and altho' there is more trouble & labour in making small than large coin it is of no consequence to the Branch here as the men in the Coiners Department do not find any thing like full employment and their full wages all the time going on. This I am told arises from the dilatory proceedings of the Melters' & Refiners' department.

If you will be pleased to see that a further supply of Dies for half as well as for whole dimes is forwarded by an early Mail you will do our citizens an essential service, and also promote

the —

the interest of the New Orleans Branch Mint —

Very Respectfully
Your afsn friend
Jacob Barker

To/
R M Patterson Esqr
Director of the
United States Mint
Philadelphia

APR 24 LA.

PAID

Pd

R M Patterson Esqr
Director of the –
U.S. Mint – Philadelphia

May 1841

From Jacob Barker, Esq.,
New Orleans.
April 24, 1841.
Rec'd May 3, "

From Jacob Barker, Esq.,
New Orleans.
April 24, 1841.
Rec'd May 3, "

From Jacob Barker, Esq.,
New Orleans.
April 24, 1841.
Rec'd May 3, "

U. S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans May 6. 1841

Sir,

I enclose the Statement of our operations during the last month, which was handed to me yesterday by the Treasurer. Our coinage was in reality, greater $18,000 than that exhibited therein but as these were found to vary slightly from the legal limits they were reserved by the Coiner, to be mixed, and delivered during the present month with others ~~of~~ such weight, as to bring them within the standard.

You will also receive herewith, statements shewing the gross weight, the weight after melting and fineness of the deposites of gold & silver received at this Mint during the last quarter.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the articles shipped pr. Barque Josephine, as also of three boxes containing 2 pr. ½ dollar, 2 pr. of dime, and 1 pr. ½ dime dies.

Very respy
Yr. obedt Servt
J. M. Kennedy
Supt

R. M. Patterson Esqr.
Director of the Mint of the U.S.
Philada.

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

May 6, } 1841.
Rec'd " 16 }

(Report for April.)

Statement of the Deposites, and Coinage, at the Branch Mint, at New Orleans, in the month of November. 1841

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight after Melting		Standard Weight		Value before Deductions		Value, after Deductions		Total Value before Deductions	
	Ounces	dec.	Ounces	dec.	Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts
Gold.										
Foreign Coins	134	52	134	036	2,493	69	2,493	69		
U.S. Coins (Old Stand:)	8	55	8	664	161	19	161	19		
									2,654	88
Silver										
Foreign Bullion	956	30	932	29	1,084	83	1,081	68		
Foreign Coins	74,885	15	74,507	94	86,699	85	86,564	56		
									87,784	68
					Total		Deposites		$90,439	56

Coinage

Denomination	Number of Pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dolls	Cts	Dolls	Ct
Gold.					
None.					
Silver					
Dimes	100,000	10,000	00		
				10,000	00
	Total Coinage.			$10,000	00

Branch Mint of the United States New Orleans
Treasurer's Office November 30th 1841.

A. C. Cammack
Treasr.

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New-Orleans, in the month of April 1841.

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight after melting: Ounces,	dw	Standard Weight: Ounces,	dw	Value before deductions: Dolls,	cts	Value after deductions: Dolls.	cts	Total Value before deductions: Dollars,	cts
Gold:										
U. S. Bullion,	13	17	13	945	259	44	259	44		
Foreign Bullion,	6	18	5	287	98	36	98	36		
Foreign Coins,	24	86	24	666	458	90	458	90		
									816	70
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion,	2.947	20	3.110	20	3.619	11	3.614	76		
Foreign Coins,	33.679	85	33.390	69	38.854	50	38.834	00		
									42.473	61
Total deposites									43.290	31

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value: Dollars,	cts	Total Value: Dollars,	cts
Gold:					
Eagles,	1.000	10.000	00		
				10.000	00
Silver:					
Half Dollars,	86.000	43.000	00		
Quarter Dollars,	52.000	13.000	00		
Dimes,	70.000	7.000	00		
Half Dimes,	120.000	6.000	00		
				69.000	00
Total Coinage	329.000			79.000	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office, April 30th 1841.
H. C. Cammack
Treasr.

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of May 1841.

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces,	dw	Ounces,	dw	Dollars,	cts	Dollars,	cts	Dollars,	cts
Gold:										
Foreign Bullion,	16	34	9	804	182	40	182	40		
Foreign Coins,	405	45	398	217	7.408	70	7408	70		
									7.591	10
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion,	141	50	135	84	158	06	157	89		
Foreign Coins,	74.352	90	74.050	08	86.167	15	86.083	04		
									86.325	21
Total deposites									93.916	31

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars,	cts	Dollars,	cts
Gold:					
Eagles	500	5.000	00		
				5.000	00
Silver:					
Half Dollars,	72.000	36.000	00		
Quarter Dollars,	60.000	15.000	00		
Dimes,	215.000	21.500	00		
Half Dimes,	190.000	9.500	00		
				82.000	00
	537,500				
Total Coinage				87.000	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, May 31st. 1841.
J. H. Cammack
Treasr

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of March 1841.

Deposites

Kind of Deposites	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces,	dw	Ounces,	dw	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:										
Foreign Coins,	487	36	476	572	8.866	44	8.866	44		
									8.866	44
Silver:										
U. S. Bullion,	96	90	87	53	101	85	101	53		
Foreign Bullion,	522	40	525	01	610	91	609	17		
Foreign Coins,	55.763	50	55.555	63	64.646	40	64.608	59		
									65.359	16
Total deposites									74.225	60

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:					
Eagles,	200	2.000	00		
				2.000	00
Silver:					
Half Dollars,	28.000	14.000	00		
				14.000	00
Total Coinage				16.000	00

Branch Mint of the U. States, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office, March 31st 1841.
H. Cammack
Treasurer

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of January 1841.

Deposites

Kind of Deposits	Gross Weight after melting Ounces,	dw	Standard Weight Ounces,	dw	Value before deductions Dollars,	cts	Value after deductions Dollars,	cts	Total Value before deductions Dollars,	cts
Gold:										
U. S. Bullion	78	78	83	741	1557	97	1557	97		
Foreign Bullion	3	38	3	346	62	25	62	25		
U. S. Coins (old Standard)	29	55	29	835	555	06	555	06		
Foreign Coins	1980	47	1962	541	36.512	29	36.512	29		
									38.687	57
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion	245	50	256	41	298	36	297	55		
Foreign Coins	78.237	30	77.808	19	90.540	35	90.461	96		
									90.838	71
Total deposits									129.526	28

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value Dolls	cts	Total Value Dolls.	cts
Gold:					
Half Eagles	6.300	31.500	00		
				31.500	00
Silver:					
Half Dollars,	52.000	26.000	00		
Dimes,	90.000	9.000	00		
Half Dimes,	100.000	5.000	00		
				40.000	00
	248,300				
Total Coinage				71.500	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office, February 1st 1841.
H. C. Cammack
Treasurer

From/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq
Supt. Br. Mint,
N. Orleans.

J

Recd Feb. 20, 1841.
(Report for January.
1841.

U. S. Branch Mint N. Orleans
Dec 10. 1841.

Sir,

I enclose the Statement of our operations in November which was handed to me yesterday by the Treasurer.

Dr. Riddell desires that his account be settled at the close of the year. I have acceded to this request as the additional delay will be but short. A settlement, at that period, will also be more thorough and complete, as it will embrace all his operations since the resumption. I have left it to him to decide which of the two courses laid down in your letter of the 16th. ult. he will adopt. I think that, after all his sweeps will be sent to N. York.

We have recd a box containing 2 pr. of dimes and 1 pair of 1/2 dime dies.

Respy
Yr obed Servant
J M Kennedy

R. M. Patterson Esqre
Director of the Mint
of the U. S.
Phila

(From)
Jo. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Dec. 10. 1841.
Recd " 21. "

NEW ORLEANS- 1841

Jos. M. Kennedy Esqr.
Supt. Branch Mint

New Orleans 17 March 1841

Sir, According to your instructions, I have re-assayed five bars of Silver, taking the assay piece from the reverse side of each bar, & the following is the result.

No 598 ... 897. By the 1st Assay 896.4 & returned on the report 896.
598 ... 897. — Do — — — — Do — — — 896.
601 ... 898. The same as before — — — — 898.
603 ... 896. By the 1st Assay 895.5 & returned — 895.
605 ... 897.8. — Do — 897.3 and returned — 897.

Between the different assays there will appear the following variations. On 598, six tenths; on 601, none; on 603, five tenths; and on 605 five tenths. You will perceive that all the fractions under a millieme were thrown off by me in making my report. This is done to counterbalance the loss the Melter & Refiner must sustain on twice melting, which no doubt refines the Silver more or less. According to my own observation when in the Mint of Phia. in 1837, the same thing was uniformly done on Silver assays, & any fraction under a ~~on~~ of gold was reduced to ½, & under a half, rejected. The late Melter & Refiner who was trained in the principal Mint told me that it was the practice there, & that if I did not make him an allowance of all fractions under 1 Millieme on Silver, he could not stand the loss sustained by twice melting. I have made these explanations, ~~knowing~~ believing them to be necessary & proper under existing circumstances. I cannot consider any of the above variations as important, as I believe from experience & observation, that in 99 cases out of 100, the very last portion of the Silver poured out from the crucible, will be found of a somewhat higher Standard and than the rest of the Melt, but I do not think that it can in ordinary cases sensibly affect the general maſs, so as to change the title even a fraction. But I, as well as the Melter & Refiner may be in part, or even sometimes, altogether the cause of these discrepancies, for although an Aſsay may be occasionally repeated by the Humid mode without the slightest perceptible variation, yet I apprehend that in a great majority of cases, from causes over which the Aſsayer has no controul, variations of tenths within the limits of a Millieme, must occur. These causes are particles of dust lodging in the balance whilst the aſsayer is in the act of weighing, or some moisture from the hand adhering to the Silver, or some slight dulneſs of the knife edge, or even the vibration which is so sensibly & so constantly felt in this building.

In conclusion, it may be proper to remark, that Dr Riddell requested me in presence of the Treasurer to reaſsay the Coiner's Silver Bullion melted in the Coiner's department, & to take the aſsay piece from the reverse side as in the other instances. I did so & found a difference of one Millieme, the former ~~title~~ title being 840 & the latter 841, which goes far to sustain the view I have taken of the subject.

Very respectfully
Yours Obt. Servt.
Wm. P. Hort Aſsayer

P. S. I neglected to mention that I have been informed by men of Science who have visited the principal Mints in Europe, that even greater deductions are made by Assayers on Silver Bullion than those to which I have alluded, & that the practice is universal in all the Mints of Europe & Mexico.

H

Jos.h M. Kennedy

Superintendent Br. Mint

New Orleans

Delivered to the Treasurer of the Branch Mint, New Orleans, in annual settlement, 31st Dec. 1840, Silver Bullion as follows:

Description	Gross wt	Fineness	Nt wt
		Ths.	Ounces dec
Mexican dollars	10496.20	897	10461.21
12 bars Nos. 480 to 489			3232.30
1 bar No 383	89.60	877	87.35
388	178.90	878	174.52
477	170.50	893	169.17
478	109.60	888	107.54
486	260.50	860	248.92
496	98.45	892	97.57
498	182.60	876	177.73
Sundry bars & rings	5484.90	834	5082.67
Spanish Coins	496.80	895	~~538.48~~ 494.03
3 bars No 339	{ 257.50 406.60 }	980	723.18
Sundry bars No 17.	740.50	992	816.19
2 bars No 439	538.50	984	588.76
Granulated Silver No. 60. of 148.	389.80	979	424.01
1 bar No. 481.	174.40	906	175.56
Sundry rings &c	1193.50	786	1042.32
2 bars No 313	549.10	913	557.03
2 bars No 168	546.80	867	526.80
2 bars No 94 2nd m.	564.40	854 ~~936~~	535.55
1 bar No 94. 1st m.	298.70	936 ~~854~~	388.21
1 bar No 42. of 148	1007.30	958	1071.89
do 44 do	352.00	967	378.20
Clippings	5753.00	900	5753.00
4 pans unfluxed silver	1743.50	863	1671.82
Rings big pot &c	391.00	900	391.00
			33299.63
In gold alloy	300.00	900	300.00
In sweeps & grain			2326.67
Wastage			2000.00
			39995.30

Delivered to the Treasurer of the B. Mint, New Orleans in annual settlement Dec. 31st 1840. Gold Bullion.

Description	Gross wt.	Fineness	Stand wt.
1 bar No 83	45.82	842.	42.867
1 " " 81	55.82	891	55.261
1 " " 84	17.04	890	16.850
1 " " 79	14.17	894	14.075
1 " " 82	17.90	887	17.641
1 " " 80	24.25	958	25.812
1 " " 13	172.75	986	189.257
2 " " 14	100.00	663	73.660
1 " " 12	85.58	757	71.982
Sundry bars 15	658.25	898	656.787
1 king 18	8.76		8.594
Toppings	63.00	900	63.000
1 bar No. 16.	30.13	889.5	29.760
Mixed Bullion	1193.50		
Sundry bars	5484.90	41	54.370
31 bars & kings		4	24.377
2 bars No. 313.	549.10		11.592
2 bars No 168	546.85		1.822
2 bars No 94 2nd melt	564.40		2.206 ~~2.000~~
1 bar No 94 1st m.	298.70		1.330 ~~1.200~~
1 " No. 44 of 148	352.00		2.000
1 " 42 "	1007.30		5.596
			1368.845 ~~1.160~~
In grains &c			14.241
Wastage			63.646
			1446.732

1368.845
14.241
1:383:086

Memorandum of Gold Bullion weighed for the M.M.

Description	Nos.	Allowance		Gross wt.		fineness	Standard	
	assay nos							
Gold Ingots	No 15	1	-	658	·25	898 ✓	656	787
Bar	12			85	·58	757 ✓	74	982
Bars	13			172	·75	986 ✓	139	241
Bars	14.			100	-	663 ✓	73	666
Toppings & Clippings				63	-	900. ✓	63	-
1 Bar	16			30	·13	889½ ✓	29	·760
Bar	Reg. no. 18			8	·76	883 ✓	8	594
	81			55	·82	891 ✓	55	·261
	79			14	·12	894 ✓	14	·075
	80			24	·25	958 ✓	25	·812
	82			17	·90	887 ✓	17	·641
	83			45	·82	842 ✓	42	·867
	84.			17	·04	890 ✓	16	·850
							1265	·752 5
		Gold						
		mixed Bullion						
4 Rings 23·24·25·26·	assay no							
1 bar 28·1 Slab 27.	19.	12	--	1·193	·50	41. ✓	54	·370
31 bars 1/22.	20	50	-	5·484	·90	4 ✓	24	·377
2 Bars.	313.			549	·10	19 ✓	11	592
2 bars	~~[illegible]~~ 168.			546	·85	✓	1	·822
2 bars	2 M. 94.			564	·40	✓	2	200
1 bar	1 M. 94.			298	·70	✓	1	·230
1 bar Mx 42	148.			1·007	·30	✓	5·	596
1 do Mx 44	148.			352	·00	✓	2	·000
							1369	·005
							1368	845
							1368	845
In grains & Sweeps — — — — — —						✓	14	241
							1·383	·086

Memorandum of Silver Bullion Weighed for the Melter & Refiner

Description	Nos	Allow ces		Gross wt.		fineness	Standard	
Mexican dollars				900				
				900				
				900				
				912				
				1041	.60			
				695				
				900				
				900				
				900				
				900				
				900				
				513	.60			
				10.362	.20	897 ✓	10.327	.65
Spanish Quarters		unst.		496	80	895 ✓	494	03
Dollars & filings		1	30	134	.	897 ✓	133	56
	Register Nos							
1 Bar.	496			98	45	892 ✓	97	57
1 "	498			182	60	876 ✓	177	73
1 "	481			174	40	906 ✓	175	56
1 "	477			170	50	893 ✓	169	17
1 "	478			109	00	888 ✓	107	54
1 "	388			178	90	878 ✓	174	52
1 "	383			89	65	877 ✓	87	35
1 "	486			260	50	860 ✓	248	92
12 Bars.	485 & 489			2.952	00	Pr. Reg. ✓	3232	30
2 Bars.	2nd m. 339			406	65	980 }	~~402~~	~~23~~
1 Bar.	1st m. 339			257	50	980 } ✓	723	18
2 Bars & some pieces	Assay No. 17			740	50	992 ✓	816	19
2 Bars	Reg. No. 439			538	50	984 ✓	588	76
Granulated Silver. Mex. $.60	dep. - 148			3.89	80	979 ✓	424	.01
1st Copper Pan of unfluxed Silver. 408.50								
Add diff. of Pan. 1st dft. 3.50				412	00			
1. Copper Pan of same 521.50								
Add diff. 2d dft. 3.50				525	00			
1. Copper Pan of same 290.00								
Add diff. 3d dft. 3.50				293	50			
1. Copper Pan of same. 525.00								
Add diff. 4th dft. 3.50				528	50			
Total Amount. 1.759.00		9	50	1743	50	863 ✓	1671	82
							19.649	86

over

	Nos	Allowance	Gross Wt		Fineness	Standard	
Eight Boxes of Clippings						19.649	86
1st draught			798	00			
2nd do			798	00			
3rd do			798	00			
4th do			798	00			
5th do			798	00			
6th do			798	00			
7th do			798	00			
8th do			166	70			
Total Gross weight			5753	00	900 ✓	5753	~~47~~
1 King do			391	00	900 ✓	391	~~09~~
31 Bars &c 1 to 22.	Mix B.	50 ~~200~~	5484	90	834 ✓	5082	67
4 Kings 23·24·25·26		12	1193	50	786 ✓	1042	32
1 bar & 1 slab. } 2 bars —	313		549	10	913 ✓	557	03
2 bars.	168		546	85	867 ✓	526	80
2nd M. 1 bar	94.	~~[illegible]~~	284	30	} ✓	535	55
2nd M. 1 bar	94		280	10	854 }	~~6.300~~	
1. M 1 bar	94		298	70	936 ✓	311	31
Mexn. No. 42 1 bar	148		1007	30	958 ✓	1071	89 +
44 1 bar	148	~~200~~	352	–	967 ✓	378	20
			~~30~~	~~15~~		35.299	63
Ingram's Sweeps - - -					✓	2.395	67
						37.695	30

I have examined the various lots of Sweeps, pain
pots &c remaining on hand in the Melting &
Refining department, & have assayed as far
as was practicable, & entertain no doubt that
the amount submitted & claimed by the
Melter & Refiner in the annual settlement
of his account is substantially correct.

New Orleans 4 Jany 1841

Wm P. Hort
Assayer

Silver - 2395.67
Gold - 14.241.

Dr. The Treasurer of the Branch Mint, New Orleans in account with

1840			Ounces	dec
January	31	To standard silver ingots delivered	37,105	45
February	29	" " "	67,762	70
March	31	" " "	88,316.	35
April	30	" " "	106.841	70
May	30	" " "	138,949	25
June	30	" " "	139,674	30
July	31	" " "	92.826	15
August	31	" " "	63,977	55
Septemb.	30	" " "	000,000.	00
October	31	" " "	58,126.	45
Novemb.	30	" " "	191.754.	25
Decemb.	31	" " "	112,157	80
		To amount of bullion delivered in annual settlement	37,695	30
		" Silver used in alloying gold	300	00
		" Wastage	2,000	00

the Melter & Refiner.— Silver Bullion transferred during the year 1840. Cr.

1840			Ounces	dec
January	31	By silver bullion received	65,921	20
"	"	" Clippings do	23,125	35
February	29	" " Bullion "	33,395	96
"	"	" Clippings "	28,553	20
March	31	" " Bullion "	56,891	74
"	"	" Clippings "	60,211	65
April	30	" " Bullion "	47,808	55
"	"	" Clippings "	54,051	65
May	30	" " Bullion "	57,976	47
"	"	" Clippings "	56,980	00
June	30	" " Bullion "	76,186	96
"	"	" Clippings "	54,500	00
July	31	" " Bullion "	55,681	29
"	"	" Clippings "	41,132	63
Aug.	31	" " Bullion "	17,052	51
"	"	" Clippings "	29,400	00
October	31	" " Bullion "	55,768	35
"	"	" Clippings "	34,440	00
Novemb.	30	" " Bullion "	102,373	19
"	"	" Clippings "	56,408	90
Decemb.	31	" " Bullion "	65,890	35
"	"	" Clippings "	63,737	30
		New Orleans 31st Dec. 1840	1,137,487	25

J. L. Riddell
Melter & Refiner

Jos M Kennedy Esqr
Supt U.S. Br Mint

New Orleans 9th Mch 1841

Sir

I am much mortified as well as surprised to perceive that there has been an "habitual defect" in my assays of Gold. I have no hesitation in imputing it to the impurity of the Nitric Acid which I have used. I considered that the Acid sent from Philadelphia expressly for my department, was perfectly pure, & particularly as I supposed it to come directly from the Mint at Philadelphia, & to be of the same quality as that used in the assay department there; on that account I neglected to test it until I heard of the late result of the annual assay of Gold Coins, when to my surprise I found that it contained a considerable quantity of Muriatic Acid, quite sufficient to affect the Assays materially, and to account for any discrepancies that have existed. I have always adopted the same course in my Gold assays as is pursued in the Mint at Philadelphia. It is Chaudet's plan, & considered so perfect, as to render it unnecessary to make any allowance for silver that might be supposed to remain after the action of the Acid; I have therefore never made any such allowance, nor have I used a test assay of pure Gold. I am now engaged in purifying my Nitric Acid, & shall not fail to avail myself of the test assay as suggested by Dr Patterson. You may rest assured that I shall spare no pains to rectify every existing error & to prevent its recurrence —

Respectfully Your obt Servt

Wm P. Hort Assayer

Jos. M. Kennedy Esqr—

Superintendent U.S. Br. Mint

New Orleans

United States Branch Mint N. Orleans.
Superintendent's Office March 15th 1841.

H. C. Cammack Esq.
Treasurer
Dear Sir

In a note which I received this morning from Dr. Riddell, he states that in the melt which he made in your presence, pursuant to a request from the Director, he was unsuccessful owing to his furnace not having been sufficiently heated. To this circumstance he attributes the discrepancy in the assays of the pieces, taken from the different ends of the bars, the coins of which the melt was composed, (which were of various Standards) not having been properly mixed. Presuming that the object of Dr. Patterson is, not only to test the accuracy of the assays, made at our Mint, but also to see whether the bars made by the Melter & Refiner here, are in themselves of one uniform Standard, it strikes me, that it would not be doing that Officer justice, to have the matter tested by a melt, which he himself acknowledges to be *defective*. I have therefore been induced to accede to the wish expressed by Dr. Riddell, viz, that he be allowed to make another melt, in your presence, from which I desire you, as before, to send me a set of assay pieces, to be forwarded to Dr. Patterson, together with the certificate of the assays of the same melt, to be made by Dr. Hort. An additional motive by which I have been actuated, in my compliance with Dr. Riddell's request, is, that the melt which has already been made, was not as Dr. Patterson directs, strictly speaking, of "Mexican Dollars." He intended I think, that it should be exclusively of that description of coins. To this I beg leave to call your attention.

I also desire you to have pieces cut from the bars now in the possession of the Melter & Refiner, from the ends opposite to those from which the assay pieces have already been taken, to be handed to the Assayer, to ascertain whether his assays of those, will correspond with those which he has already made; If they should not, I think it proper that it should so appear, in order that by a different mode of proceeding, the Melter & Refiner should endeavor to guard against similar results hereafter.

I am very respectfully
Sir.
Your friend & Servant
(Signed) Jo.s McKennedy.
Superintendent.

P.S. Should the Melter & Refiner not have at this time in his possession bars of a sufficient weight already assayed for the execution of the direction last above given, you can have the Experiment tried, with the deposites you may now have on hand.

Melter and Refiner's Office
Branch Mint New Orleans 17th March 1841

J. M. Kennedy Esq Superintendent
Sir.

Your letter of the 15th inst accompanying certain extracts from a letter of Dr. Patterson the Director, was duly received. I would respectfully offer the following remarks on the contained subject.

Grains & Sweeps.

So far as it has been practicable to work up the grains estimated and introduced in my annual settlement, I have found no reason to doubt the general correctness of my account. Of late I have found it impracticable to keep the grains and sweeps of this year and last distinct; and as with five men I have not force enough in my department to keep one person habitually employed at recovering grains, I am at present uncertain as to the exact state of my account. You have doubtless informed the Director that both grains and sweeps were taken into the account in my annual settlement.

Wastage of Gold

One circumstance which increased my gold wastage apparently, not mentioned to you in my letter of 11th Jan'y, because unknown at that time is this. In January 1840 I received a large amount of gold bullion, assayed with pure nitric acid; all of which I delivered in ingots above the true standard, on account of the presence of Muriatic acid in the assayer's nitric acid which he supposed pure.

Silver used in alloying gold.

The principle and mode which I adopted in estimating this may be thus stated. From the whole amount of gold ingots delivered during the year, I deducted the whole amount of gold clippings received. Of the remainder I took one fortieth part as the amount of pure silver, of which I calculated the standard weight 300 ounces. This I accredited to my account before determining the amount of wastage required. Respecting this matter I could find no specific instructions.

Loss on clippings of Silver.

Oxside of copper produced in burning off, I have never intended to complain of:— but of salt, and dirt and charcoal, extraneous matter, derived from the foul salted grease used all last year by the coiner. In many instances the clippings were cleaned of grease in the humid way; and not being heated afterward, the porous edges would contain ~~i~~ sometimes $1\frac{3}{4}$th thousandth of moisture. The clippings from small coins were delivered to me no cleaner than the rest, and all of them were much less clean than those I saw in Philadelphia. I am happy to say that there is in respect to the cleanness of clippings a material improvement so far this year. It should be borne in mind that the silver ingots which I deliver are thrown from the moulds red hot in a dry iron pan, where all extraneous matter burns off, and they are left clean. They are not dipped in water until delivered. The moulds are lubricated with clean fresh lard.

Based on careful experiments, my opinion is unshaken, that on the silver clippings of 1840, I lost between one & two thousandths.

Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
J. L. Riddell
Melter & Refiner.

J. M. Kennedy Esq
Superintendent.

No. 6.

With Bill of lading No. 66.

Mint of the United States,
March 19, 1841.

Sir,

Herewith I send you a bill of lading of ~~or~~ ~~articles for the use of your Mint~~ a clay furnace, ~~and~~ fire bricks & tiles, for the use of your Mint. These articles have been ordered for a long time; but Mr. Miller, owing to a removal of his establishment, &c., has not been able to furnish them till this time.

I have duly received your letter of the 27th ult., ~~and have given directions to have the dies asked for~~ ~~in which you enumerate certain dies needed by your coinage, and I have given directions to have them~~ & the dies which you ask for are in the course of preparation.

R. M. P.
Director.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

March 19, 1841.

Mint of the United States,
March 23, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, a box of dies, directed on the inner envelope, to the Supt. of New Orleans Br. Mint, to be forwarded, as heretofore, under your frank.

A second box will be sent by to-morrow's Mail.

R. M. P.
Director.

To/
Hon. Thos. Ewing,
Sec. of Treasury.

To/

Sec. of Treasury.

March 23d, 1841.

Treasury Department.
Comptroller's Office.
March 31st 1841.

Sir,

In the Ordinary accounts of Horace C. Cammack Treasurer of the Mint at New Orleans for the 4th quarter of 1840. the following items have been suspended from his credit:

Amt paid H. Davis, Notary, for services during investigation	$ 1.430.00
Amt. paid Thomas Slidell for same	1.000.00
& your travelling expenses to New York to receive report from Mr. Slidell	10.75

As the investigation, referred to, was made under your direction, I will thank you to inform me of any circumstances that would justify the allowance of so large a sum to Messrs. Davis & Slidell, and also, of the necessity for your journey to New York.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Sert
J.N. Barker
Comptroller

Dr. R. Patterson
Director of the Mint.
Philadelphia

From/ Jas. N. Barker, Esq.
1st Comp. Treas.
March 31, 1841.
Rec'd April 22, "

(Sent by mistake to New-Orleans, where it was re-mailed April 13.)

U. S. Branch Mint N. Orleans
April 3d 1841.

Sir,

I send herewith a number of documents, marked from 1 to 6 inclusive.

In accordance with your wish Mr Cammack has caused a deposite of Mexican Dollars of about 500 oz. to be melted under his own inspection. From the two bars into which it was cast, assay slips have been cut of which one set has been tested by Dr Hort, and another you will find enclosed in the certificate of the assayer marked No 1. I think it my duty to state that the melt abovementioned was the second made under your letter of the 12th February. My reasons for allowing it to be made (and which I hope you will find satisfactory) are contained in a letter written by me to the Treasurer (marked No 2.) in consequence of one I had myself recd from the Melter & Refiner, in which he says.

" I caused the melt to be cast into moulds, as
" soon as I thought it probably hot enough. But I
" was mistaken as to the real temperature, for, from
" the manner of its leaving the pot, and from the
" fact that the usual stirring did not effect
" a sufficiently homogeneous mixture of the different
" standard co [illegible]

" It was certainly not so hot as we usually
" pour Silver deposits."
" I shall therefore with your approval be
" pleased to have another similar melt made
" in the presence of the Treasurer. &c

After his compliance with the directions given in the concluding paragraphs of my letter to the Treasurer our Assayer made to me the report marked No. 3. Document No. 4. was drawn from Dr. Hort, after by your letter to me of the 23d. Feb. which I submitted to him — No. 5 is a Communication from Mr. Cammack reporting upon the 1st. Melt of Silver made pursuant to your favor of the 12th. Feb. and enclosing the accounts and other documents upon which the settlement with the Melter and Refiner was made at the close of the last year. No. 6 is another letter from Dr. Riddell upon the subject of his wastage.

Should you still be of opinion after taking these documents into consideration, that Dr. Riddell's account should be opened anew your instructions in that respect shall be complied with. I do not myself think that it would lead to any more satisfactory result. I have directed Mr. Cammack to debit the Melter & Refiner with the 3 oz of silver
[illegible] gold, [illegible] ter the same to the

account of profit & loss. Our statement for March has not yet been handed to me by the Treasurer I will send with it a memorandum of the late assay of our Mint

I am Sir,

very respectfully

Y^r. obed^t. Servt.

J M Kennedy

Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqre

Director of the Mint
of the U. S.

Phil^a.

P. S. We have been, for three weeks, entirely out of dies for Silver Coin. Let me reiterate once more my request that you will keep us well supplied with them, of all denominations –

Jos. M. Kennedy,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
April 3, 1841.
Rec'd " 16. "

Dear Sir

Dr Hort wishing to place Two hundred dolls in Philadelphia, where he has ~~some~~ two ~~daughters~~ children at School, I have given him the above draft on you, which I beg you to honor out of the funds in your hands, belonging to this Branch Mint; and, if convenient to you, I will be glad, if you will pay the amount, in gold coins - as I have received the sum in that metal, from Dr Hort. —

I am,
Yours very truly,
H. C. Cammack
Treasurer.

To Dr Patterson

Draft dated April 14, 1841.

From/ H. C. Cammack, Esq,
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
April 14, 1841, (?)
Rec'd May 19. "

Branch Mint New Orleans
Treasurer's Office 13 April 1841.

dear Sir

I received in due course your letter of the 10th February and yesterday Mr Kennedy handed me your letter of 29 March, with your account and vouchers for the 1st Quarter of the present year which you enclosed to him.

My accounts for ordinary expences for last qur. are already closed and the amounts paid by you will be charged in the present quarter's accounts.

I have a letter from the Comptroller of the Treasury under date of 31 March, in which he informs me that he has written to you requesting explanations of the amounts paid by me to Messrs Davis & Slidell, for services during the investigation, which sums, he says, cannot be allowed, as the accounting officers are, at present, advised. He will await your reply, however, before allowing or rejecting them.

The amount of the two drafts drawn on you by Mr Forstall appears to have been passed to my credit.

I am,
very respectfully
your faithful Servant
H. C. Cammack
Treasurer

To
Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia.

From/ H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Apr. 13, } 1841.
Rec'd " 23, }

U.S. Branch Mint New Orleans April 19th 1841

Dear Sir.

Although it is now a long time since I last wrote you. It is with pleasure that I resume my pen to address you. And although my communications may never be of so much advantage to you, as I could wish, yet to me it will afford satisfaction to communicate those circumstances in which ~~no~~ one but yourself is capable of rendering me assistance or advice. One of which I will relate

About the first ~~of~~ inst. when the Treasurer of this Mint was paying the workmen for the months of Jan. & Feb. I was surprised at the Treasurer reserving from my brothers, (Nelson Tylers) wages. the sum of $60. which he said was on account of the suspension of my brothers bill for passage from Boston in Dec 1839. —— My brother felt injured by the manner in which the money was reserved after giving his receipt for the full amount of the pay roll, besides for the bill of $60. which had been paid more than a year before. Particularly as he had never been aware of its being suspended in the Treasurers acct — nor consulted about its being reserved from his wages &c and could not receive even a receipt in return. And in order to do justice to my brother. I deposited without his knowledge. the $60. with the Treasurer. and took a certificate of its receipt and thus it should be repaid to me so soon as the bill was passed in Washington — which event I have now no reason to think will take place without your assistance

Before employing my brother in 1839. I consulted the Superintendent in relation to it. And stated to him that his qualifications &c rendered him a suitable person to be employed as foreman of my department. And that the two persons who had previously occupied that place. had had their passages paid from Philadelphia. And as I knew of no one in New Orleans calculated to fill the place, I requested that my brother might be employed, to which the Supt. fully agreed, on the terms which I had mentioned.

I wrote immediately to my brother. that the Supt. wished me to offer him the same wages as had been given to the persons formerly occupying the same place — and to pay his passage from Boston, provided it did not exceed $60. Accordingly my brother left Boston with the distinct understanding that his passage would be paid, or at least $60. towards it. And when he arrived here, the matter was so perfectly understood that the Supt. gave a warrant for the payment of the bill without any hesitation. But it appears that about that time Dr Riddell sent to Vermont for his brother, (a mere plough-boy, 16. or 18 years old) and brought in a bill of $80. for sundry traveling expenses. which was sent to Washington in the same package with my brothers bill. and suspended at the same time — Now I believe you will see plainly a difference between these claims or at least the justness of the one presented by my brother.

and if you can represent it to the Secretary of the Treasury in this view, I have no doubt but it will be entered to the credit of our Treasurer, and I assure you it confer a particular favour on me. ——— ———

We have now a supply of dies. having recied 2 more pair of ½ dollars to day— except for dimes the last of which have just stamped about 130.000 pieces. and are worn out — I fear we do not meet your expectations in the number of pieces struck with each pair of dies. as I believe our dies for ½ dollars do not generally strike more than about 100.000 pieces — and our dimes & ½ dimes from one to two hundred thousand. though we have in one instance stamped more than 300.000 pieces with one pair of dime dies. yet it sometimes occurs that they do not stamp more than ten, or twenty thousand. In all of which I believe there is no mystery, which I have not fully investigated. I believe that in most of the cases when the dies have not stamped their full compliment, lately. it has occurred through some irregularity in the presses— I am happy to state however, that the ¼ dollar press has never stamped less than 200.000 pieces, with one pair of dies—. I believe the ~~cam~~ excentric, as well as the other improvements in the feeding apparatus, which you have adopted, would be of much advantage to our dime press— I understand that your new dime press, never misses any pieces, which must be very agreeable. and economical in its use of dies— I have been constantly trying to obviate the existing evils of all the machinery in my department, but do not like to make any alterations in the presses, untill suggested by the experience of the Mother Mint. Our first great evil however, of the irregularity of the Steam Engine is now entirely obviated by the adoption of a new governor — I have also given the milling machines some attention, untill we are able to Mill 1000. pieces per minute. I have only altered one of the machines, which mills ½ dimes & dimes, ¼ & ½ eagles — after completing I found some difficulty in supplying it with planchetts, but have finally adopted a plan, by which one man mills 10.000. pieces. in ~~sixty~~ ten minutes. — We have also adopted your plan of guides on the rolls, which I find a benefit to the adjusting — I am now making some improvements in our process of annealing & bleaching planchetts, which I hope to modify so as to enable one man to take the planchetts from the — piercing machines, and prepare them for the coining presses, as a fair proportion of labour in my department. The principle improvement will be the use of steam for heating the pickle & saw dust, — by doing which our 7 by 9. bleaching room will be disencumbered of its. bleaching & roasting furnaces, and the heavy lifting, from place to pla be greatly diminished — but of the results, I will speak hereafter — I hope to have dies enough prepared before hand to last us through the sickly season — 2. or 3 extra ½ dollar tails are now needed

Very Respectfully Yours, R. B. Tyler. Coin

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

June 11, 1841.

Mint of the United States.
April 23d, 1841.

Sir,

Your letter of the 31st of March, respecting the ~~charges of~~ payments made to Messrs Davis and Slidell for their services during the investigation at the New Orleans Branch Mint in 1839, was, by a mistake of your clerk, directed to New Orleans, whence it was remailed to me on the 13th of April, so that it did not come into my hands until yesterday. I now proceed to give the explanations for which you ask.

In ~~consequence of~~ the month of May 1839, the attention of the Secretary of the Treasury having been ~~was~~ called to difficulties existing among the officers of the New Orleans Mint, and a recommendation having been ~~was~~ made to him, by the Superintendent, Mr. Bradford, that the Melter & Refiner of that Branch should be removed, the Secretary, on the 20th of May, wrote to me as follows: — "As further information seems to be required to enable the Department to come to a proper decision, I have to request that you will write to and employ the District Attorney at New Orleans, to inquire fully as to the qualifications and efficiency of the present officers of the establishment, and of those recommended to succeed the Melter & Refiner and Coiner, in the event of

2/

their removal, — and to report to you fully as to the character of the officers implicated, and the state of the Branch Mint generally and its difficulties."

In compliance with these instructions, I addressed a ~~letter~~ ~~immediately~~ communication, on the 23d of May, to the ~~District~~ U. S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Thomas Slidell Esq., ~~to~~ engaging him in the required investigation, ~~and~~ ~~giving~~ calling his attention to ~~the~~ some points ~~requiring~~ demanding particular ~~attention~~ inquiry, — and sending him necessary documents.

The investigation was undertaken accordingly, and proved to be ~~from~~ exceedingly painful, laborious, and difficult. Eighteen days were occupied in the examination of witnesses, ~~— the sittings continuing often until late in the night.~~

A Notary Public was necessarily employed, who charged $10 per diem for his attendance, $500 for his original draft of the proceedings, and $250 each for three copies of this draft, — one furnished to me, one to Mr. Slidell, — and one, (on their special demand) to the parties implicated, to enable them to prepare their defence. My copy is now before me, and contains 355 folio pages.

~~This~~ The above bill of charges has the following endorsement. — "The said services were rendered, at my request, by Horatio Davis, ~~Esq.~~ Notary Public of New Orleans, who was employed by me to administer oaths to the witnesses, take down the testimony, and prepare the copies thereof. With a view of not interrupting the business of the Mint, the sittings commenced at 4½ P.M., and usually continued till after midnight. I consider the bill a just and reasonable one, and accordingly approve the same — U.S. Dist. Atty. Office, — New Orleans, Nov. 12, 1839. (Signed) Thomas Slidell, U.S. Atty. East. Dist. La."

In answer to a letter which I addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury on the subject of the above charge, he ~~so~~ writes, under date of 29th Nov. 1839, — "Your communication enclosing the bill from Horatio Davis for his services during the investigation at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, has been received; and in reply I have to remark, that a compensation which appears to you to be reasonable should be paid out of the Mint Funds, on which it would seem to form a proper charge." — With the certificate of the District Attorney, that "he considered the bill a just and reasonable one, and accordingly approved the same," ~~I felt that~~ and the above instructions from the Secretary, I felt that I could not do otherwise than to return Mr. Davis' bill to the New Orleans Mint for payment, which I accordingly did on the 3d of Dec., '39.

Mr. Slidell's report was not completed until August 1839, at which time he was in New York. It is a very able one, drawn up great impartiality (and ability), and evidently the result of great labor. It consists of 57 closely written folio pages. — Mr. Slidell's bill for ~~Mr. Slidell's~~ his services, on this occasion, ~~amounting to $1000~~, was referred to me by Mr. Jos. M. Kennedy, the Superintendent of the New Orleans Branch Mint, by a letter dated the 8th & received on the 22d of February 1840. In my answer, of the 6th of March following, I say, — "In your letter of the 8th ult., you submit to my approval the charge made by Mr. Slidell for the services rendered by him at the investigation held in your Mint. I have now to state, that, after giving this charge full consideration, and taking into view the labor, time, and anxiety which the investigation cost, and the tariff for professional services understood to be established in New Orleans, I cannot pronounce Mr. Slidell's charge of one thousand dollars unreasonable, and that I think you would be justified in paying it, when you shall be in funds to enable you to do so."

In a letter from Mr. Slidell, dated New York Aug 29th 1839, he mentions that his report, ~~with~~ which was in the hands of the copyist, would be ready, with the documents, on the Wednesday following, and he suggests my sending on a Clerk for it. As the papers were too voluminous to be sent by mail, and too important to be entrusted to a stranger, I felt the propriety of sending a special messenger for them; and, as our clerks were, at that time, too much engaged to leave the Mint, I sent my son Robert Patterson, — and this is the ~~ex~~ explanation of the charge of $10.75, for the messenger, and (I presume it will be acknowledged) moderate expenses of the journey.

R. M. P.

To
Jas. N. Barker, Esq.
First Comptroller of the Treasury -

To/
Jas. N. Barker, Esq.
1st. Comp. Treas.

April 23, 1841.

Mint U.S.

April 23d /41.

Sir,

I have duly received your letter of the 13th inst., and I believe the only part of it which calls for an answer is that which has regard to the suspended items for the expenses of the investigation at your Mint in 1839. When the Comptroller of the Treasury wrote to you on the subject, on the 31st of March, he also wrote to me, but unfortunately both letters were directed to New Orleans, and mine, which was remailed by Mr. Kennedy, did not come into my hands until yesterday. I have replied to it, with all the details and explanations that can be required by the Department, and I have no doubt that they will prove satisfactory, and that your account will be allowed.

Please to tell Mr. Kennedy that I expect to be able to reply tomorrow to his communications of the 3d inst., which, by the by, were not received until the 16th. My answer has been delayed in consequence of the letter sent enclosed from Dr. Hort, which made it necessary for me to institute some experimental investigations.

R. M. P.
D

To H. C. Cammack Esq
Treasurer of Br. Mint,
New Orleans

(To)
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

April 23, 1841.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, April 24th, 1841.

Sir,

Your letter of the 3d was received on the 16th inst., with its accompanying documents, and I now proceed to make a few remarks on the different points which it presents for consideration.

1st. — Dr. Hort's Gold Assays.

In Dr. Hort's letter to you, of the 9th of March, he shows a very natural and proper desire to discover the cause of the ~~def~~ "habitual defect" in his assays of gold, and thinks that he has found it in the circumstance that the nitric acid, sent to him from Philadelphia, as pure, really contained "a considerable quantity of muriatic acid". On this subject, I will remark, in the first place, that this acid was ordered for you, exactly as it is for ourselves, from the manufacturers Messrs. John Farr & Co. ~~Kunzi~~. ~~The acid~~ Your acid never comes into our hands, and therefore ought always to be tested before it is used. We should feel much astonished, however, ~~to~~ to find nitric acid sold by so respectable a house as pure, to contain so much muriatic acid as to affect sensibly the result of a gold assay.

But, in fact, I cannot understand how a sensible quantity of muriatic acid could be contained in nitric, without its being immediately detected on using it for a gold assay. Into ~~the acid employed~~ 1¼ oz of nitric acid employed for dissolving the silver of an assay cornet, we introduced the 250th part of one drop of muriatic acid, (being about one part in 150,000,) and the milky cloud of chloride of silver was ~~was~~ quite manifest: with 2, 3, 4, & 5 times this amount the cloud became more and more conspicuous. It cannot, therefore, be supposed that your acid contained these amounts. Now I have caused assays to be made with pure nitric acid and with these mixtures, and the results are as follows.

No		No	Muriatic acid.
1	1000.0.		
2	999.8	1	250th of drop "
3	999.6	2	" "
4	999.5	3	" "
5	999.3	4	" "
6	999.2	5	" "

(The same acid was used in all the three charges. In the first, the cloud disappeared during the boiling. A cloud was also formed, in the second and third charges, — probably from the nitrate of silver, which still ~~adhering to the~~ moistened the sides of the matrass, — and this cloud did not disappear during the boiling.

In ~~another~~ previous experiment, the results were as follows: —

No 1.	980.8	No Muriatic acid.
2	980.6	One 250th of drop of Muriatic Acid
3	980.5	" 167th " "
4	980.3	" 100 " "
5	979.9	" 71 " "
6	979.8	" 50 " "

I have felt it ~~importan~~ of importance that these experiments should be communicated to Dr. Hort. They seem to prove that the quantity of muriatic acid mixed with his nitric could not have been sufficient to account for the defect of his assays, without its presence being at once shown by the cloud of chloride of silver formed when the cornet is introduced into it. This Chloride appears to be afterwards decomposed, — the chlorine uniting to a portion of the gold, and the silver to the nitric acid. — With Dr. Horts attention fully turned to the subject, ~~the~~ and with the precautions which he proposes to employ, I have now no apprehensions of further errors, of the same kind, in ~~the~~ his gold assays, yet ~~as matter of curiosity,~~ I would be glad if he could discover the true cause of the defect in his former assays.

Let me mention here, that our assayers ~~have~~ long since found it necessary to keep

4/ the bottles containing muriatic acid in a different room from those with nitric acid; for though both were habitually closed with glass stoppers, the ~~former of the former~~ latter acid was found to absorb a trace of the former, and this was shown by a milky cloud formed in making the gold assays.

2d. Assay of Mexican Dollars.

The report, on this important point, contained in Mr. Cammack's letter to you of the 10th of March, shows that the Assayer had found the fineness of two bars from the same melt of 500 oz., to be 892.4 and 895. In your letter to ~~the Treas~~ Mr. Cammack of the 15th of the same month, you state that Dr. Riddell had accounted for this discrepancy, by his furnace not ~~having~~ being sufficiently heated, and the metal not properly mixed. Where the qualities of the metals introduced into the pot are very different, — as when fine silver is used to bring up base to standard, — such differences occur, but it is rather surprising that it should be presented in a melt compound wholly of dollars. ~~The mean~~ The mean, moreover, (893.7,) is much lower for dollars than we have ever found, and particularly where, as Mr. Cammack mentions, there was more than the usual number of South American dollars. These results, it seems to me, can ~~only~~ be accounted for only by supposing ~~that~~ there were many counterfeits in the mass.

This to stand.

The second ~~assay~~ trial, which I understand to have been exclusively of Mexican dollars, is reported by Dr. Hert at 896 ~~ths~~, and this report is confirmed by our Assayer, who found the two specimen pieces sent by you to give 895.5 and 896 ~~ths~~. In so small a melt as 500 oz., a slight variation from the average standard is not surprising; but we still find it safe, here, to assume 897 as the medium fineness of Mexican dollars. In confirmation of this, I permit the following statement of a melt made by us yesterday, in our pot.

	Gross.		Standard.
Mexican dollars	Oz. 14,814.0	at .897	= 14,764.6
Five franc pieces	" 879.4	" .901	" 880.4
Do.	" 287.6	" .900	" 287.6
	" 15,981.0		15,932.6
Fine Silver	" 435.6	" 1.000	484.0
Clippings &c.	" 4,531.0	" .900	4,531.0
Pot	" 20,947.6	" .900	20,947.6

The pot-assay having proved satisfactory, no change was made in the metal, and it was cast into ingots. Of these, five assays were made, namely of the 6th, the 200th, of those cast after each ~~firing~~ closing of the pot heating, and of the last ingot. I saw the humid assays myself, and there was not a shade of variation in any of them from the true standard 900. — If the Mexican dollars had been taken at 896 ~~[illegible]~~ instead of 897, there would have been 147.6 oz. more of fine silver required in making up the pot; and the loss by this addition, (if unnecessary,) would have been $18.65, for the ingots being thereby raised only to 900.7 would not have been rejected.

there were many counterfeits in the mass.
f this could have been inquired into. In
le this first trial was a very unhappy

In your letter to Mr. Cammack, you
fin to have pieces cut from the ~~opposite~~
f these bars opposite to those before selec
ed to cause them to be assayed. I regret
this does not appear to have been done.
ver the same difference is not shown in
ces, which you sent to us, ~~which we found to~~ from
me bars, and which we found to be 89
1/10 ~~M~~. The mean of them is 2 ~~M~~
the mean found by Dr. Hort, and ~~seem~~ yet it
s lower than we have ever ~~found~~ met
here for dollars, and is particularly surpri-
where, as Mr. Cammack mentions, there
more than the usual number of South
ican dollars." Such a result, it seems
, can be accounted for only by suppo-
that there were many counterfeits in
mass.

I am glad that you have ordered a new
exclusively of Mexican dollars, and
anxious to have the result.

Dr. Hort's assays of pieces ~~Ups~~ taken from several
f the same bars ~~upp~~ are satisfactory.
differences as he met with may still

occur, and may have their origin partly in real difference in the metal, and partly in unavoidable ~~variations in the assa~~ errors in the process of assaying.

Mr. Eckfeldt ~~that~~ informs me that he does not invariably ~~throw off~~ deduct the decimals in reporting an assay of silver. In a small deposite he would have reported 897.8 as 898. In large deposites he ~~reports to~~ gives the next half millieme below the assay, and would have ~~given~~ reported 897.8 as 897½.

A perusal of the act of Jan 18, 1837, will show Mr. Cammack that all deposites are legally in his keeping until they are reported upon by the Assayer, and transferred from the Treasurer to the Melter & Refiner at their estimated standard weight. I am well aware of the anomaly that occurs with regard to those deposites which require melting before assay; but, although it was fully presented to my mind when I was preparing the draught of the law in question, I could see no practical method by which it could be avoided. In practice, it will, I presume, very rarely give rise to any difficulty. ~~When doubts have been presented as to the fidelity with which this ever preliminary melting has been done,~~

3. Melter & Refiner's Wastage Account.

On this subject, I have very little to say now, having given my views, with regard to it, at large, in my ~~lst~~ communication to you of the 17th of February. — I was then, as you saw, under the impression that you must have omitted to credit Dr. Riddell with the estimated value of his sweep, and I asked that the account might be reopened, principally for the purpose of introducing this item into it. I find, from the statements now sent to me, that I was unfortunately mistaken in this point, ~~and I now see nothing left but to beg that the utmost care and vigilance be used for the future~~ — I observe that you have directed the Treasurer to correct, ~~it~~ on his books, the error by which the Melter & Refiner received credit for 300 oz. of silver alloy for gold. — I ~~see~~ ~~no~~ agree with you that no more satisfactory result is likely to arise from opening again the wastage account, and I can now only beg that the utmost care and vigilance be used for the future.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Apr. 24/41.

Mailed 26th.

Branch Mint, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office, May 3. 1841.

Sir,

I have the pleasure to own receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, advising me that you had received the letter from the Comptroller of the Treasury, regarding the Suspended items in my account, for expenses of the investigation in this mint in 1839. and that you had answered it, with all details and explanations required by the Department.

I thank you, sincerely, for your promptness, in thus placing this matter in a proper manner before the Department, and I hope that the items will now be passed to my credit.. These are now the only Suspended items in my accounts, and I trust they will be the last. - Your message to Mr. Kennedy, will be delivered to him, as desired by you.

With considerations
of respect and esteem,
I subscribe myself
Your faithful Servant.
H. C. Cammack
Treasr.

To

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint

I beg to remind you

that we are still without the new weights, and that I have no means of testing the accuracy of those now in use.

H.C.C.

From / H. C. Cammack,
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
May 3,
Rec'd " 13, } 1841.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

Copy.

Branch Mint, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office May 4th 1841.

Sir,

I have your note of last evening, asking me to furnish you with not less than 60,000 ounces, of Bullion to be melted into ingots.

You are aware that the Government deposite that was in the Mint for the purpose of purchasing metal for coinage has been withdrawn, or reduced to a very small amount, and that it will be necessary for the Officers of the Mint, to work the balances in their hands down *much* lower than was formerly the case, in order to enable payments to be made to depositors in any thing like a reasonable time. The deposites now from the public are made *solely* for the purpose of getting *small* coins, the inconvenience, and delay, and loss of interest consequent thereon, prevent individuals from depositing for other coins; notwithstanding the gain on Mexican dollars, which is an object, only, when deposites are paid promptly.

The main dependence of the Mint, therefore, for bullion, is the foreign coins, in the money held for the Treasurer of the United States, by me, as a depositary of public moneys, under the law of 1840. I have been authorized to take these for recoinage & substitute for them new coins. - I have put a liberal construction on this authority and have made deposites for coinage before the new coins were ready to replace the amount, but in doing this, it is necessary for me to exercise a caution that will prevent the public money in my hands, "which is in fact money in the Treasury of the United States," and subject at any moment to the draft of the Treasurer, from being placed in a position beyond my control, and also to be careful to be possessed of these new coins before the close of each month, so that the verification of the cash in my possession may be made at that time by the Superintendent as required by law, and the instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury.

By a reference to your bullion accounts, I find to your debit,

Gold Bullion — 1,532,178 ounces or —	$28,505.63
Silver Bullion, after deducting 12,000 ounces, for two melts of ingots which you have on hand, 22,000 oz, or	26.000.00
leaving in your hands, — —	$54.505.63

out of which you say you cannot make a melt.

This amount seems large to be locked up in one department, when the whole government deposite is under 17,000 ~~dollars~~. ounces.

I hold now certificates for deposites amounting to about $47.000, which have come into the possession of the Government and have been remitted to me from Washington, to be collected & placed to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, but which you are aware cannot now be paid. This amount due by the Coinage to the Government, cannot be increased by me, under any circumstances what-ever. The Secretary of the Treasury in a late letter to me, says, "the State of the Public Treasury, will not justify an increase in the "deposite for purchasing metal for this Mint," and to increase this amount, even had I the authority, would be an indirect way of obtaining an increase to that deposite.

The delays which usually attend deposites require me to make them but sparingly, but I am willing to continue them as heretofore, when I see a prospect of replacing the amount from coins that will be delivered to me soon after by the Coiner, but while such large balances are kept by the Officers in their possession, heavy deposites from me, would tend to exclude individuals depositors altogether from payment. You will recollect that during the last months the whole delivery of ingots, was only 56,000 oz, owing to accidents in your department, and that for weeks together, the Coining was entirely stopped for want of dies, these accidents may happen again and they guard me against placing a large deposite at one time in the Mint.

I am sure that I would have no difficulty in keeping the mint supplied with bullion if it could be worked into coins without delay. This however, can be done in the absence of a large Government deposite, only, by reducing the balances in the hands of the Melter & Refiner, & Coiner.

We are now actually using the Bullion of one depositor to pay another, and when the Citizen's Bank calls for her deposite, that has been here since the 22nd January, of 50,000 Dollars, we shall be compelled to make that deduction.

The five franc pieces you mention I am willing to transfer to you, at the title at which they are received at the Philadelphia Mint, if you think you will be safe in taking them at that rate, - or, you may have any portion of them. I would prefer for the present not to deposite them in any other manner, or if you desire it I will make a deposite of a moderate amount of Mexican Dollars.

I am very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
(Signed) H. C. Cammack
Treasurer.

To Dr. Riddell,
Melter & Refiner.

The within, is a letter
handed me some
time since, by Mr
Cammack – by
which you may
learn something of
the affairs of our
Mint. Respty
P.B. Tyler

Copy of a letter from
H. C. Cammack, Esq.,
Treas. N. O. Br. Mint,
to Dr. Riddell, M. & R.
dated May 4, '41.

Rec'd ~~May~~ 7, 1841.
(June)
New Orleans

June 1841

Genl H. C. Cammack Esq
Treas. Br. Mint N. O.
New Orleans
May 10
1841
Recd ... 21

Branch Mint New Orleans
Treasurer's Offic May 10. 1841.

Sir

Two individuals who have made deposits in this mint for recoinage inform me that they have lost their receipts and they have applied for payment offering to guarantee me ~~f~~ against loss in case the receipts should appear at any future time. Please to inform me what is the practice at your mint under similar circumstances.

Enclosed I hand you copy of our balance to 31. ~~december~~ March. I am afraid that you will find that we have too large an amount on hand in the form of Bullion, considering that we have debts against us that are pressing.

In the deposites that are made here under the law of 4 July 1840, it happens always that a number of counterfeit dollars are discovered and rejected. I wish to know if I can be permitted to cut, disfigure or mark these counterfeits.

One of the clerks, who counts the money, thinks that some of them have been presented here more than once.

I am, Sir
Your Mo. Obt St
H. C. Cammack
Treasr

To
Dr. R. M. Patterson

From/ H. C. Cammack, Esq.,
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
May 10. } 1841.
Rec'd " 21. }

Statement of Silver deposites, received at Branch Mint, at New Orleans, during the First quarter of 1841.

No.	Description of Bullion	Fineness	Gross weight		Weight after melting		
512	Mexican Dollars,	897	866	65	865	90	A.
513	Mex. Dolls. & German coins	894	957	30	956	45	
514	Mex. Test bottoms & Hamm^d. Dolls.	940	246	25	245	50	
515	Mexican Dollars	896	86	50	86	40	
516	Do Do	897	140	90	140	75	A.
517	Do Do	897	863	40	862	65	A.
518	Do Do	897	646	50	645	90	A.
519	Spanish Dollars.	898	860	80	860	05	
520	Mixed Coins.	897	86	75	86	65	A.
521	Five franc pieces	899	949	00	948	15	
522	Mexican Dollars.	897	226	30	226	10	A.
523	Do Do	897	86	70	86	60	A.
524	Do Do	897	172	90	172	70	A.
525	Do Do	897	260	30	260	05	A.
526	Do Do	897	867	20	866	25	A.
527	Do Do	897	433	40	433	00	A.
528	Do Do	897	434	00	433	60	A.
529	Do Do	897	91	60	91	50	A.
530	Do Do	897	866	10	865	35	A.
531	Do Do	897	91	50	90	40	A.
532	Do Do	897	519	50	519	05	A.
533	Do Do	897	183	20	183	00	A.
534	Mixed Coins	898	164	00	162	70	
535	Do Do	876	391	95	396	00	
536	Mexican Dollars.	897	260	65	260	40	A.
537	Do Do	897	195	25	195	05	A.
538	Do Do	897	86	70	86	60	A.
539	Do Do	897	172	90	172	70	A.
540	Mixed Coins.	897	86	20	86	10	A.
541	Mexican Dollars	897	258	10	257	85	A.
542	Do Do	897	173	00	172	85	A.
543	Do Do	897	86	50	86	40	A.
544	Do Do	896	430	90	430	50	
545	Do Do	896	433	80	433	40	
546	Do Do	896	1.729	70	1.728	20	
547	Do Do	896	603	90	603	35	
548	Do Do	896	86	50	86	40	
549	Mixed Coins.	879	130	00	129	85	
550	Mexican Dollars.	896	283	80	283	50	

551	Mexican	Dollars.	896	86	20	86	10
552	Do	Do	896	437	50	437	10
553	Do	Do	896	601	30	600	75
554	Mixed	Coins	894	857	00	856	20
555	Mexican	Dollars	896	86	30	86	20
556	Do	Do	896	87	00	86	90
557	Mixed	Coins	890	332	00	331	00
558	Mexican	Dollars	896	86	80	86	70
559	Do	Do	896	1,736	80	1.735	30
560	Do	Do	896	1,736	50	1.735	00
561	Mexican & Hammered Dollars,		889	566	20	499	50
562	Mexican	Dollars	895	86	95	86	85
563	Do	Do	895	158	10	157	95
564	Do	Do	895	86	70	86	60
565	Do	Do	895	86	55	86	45
566	Do	Do	895	864	90	864	15
567	Do	Do	895	180	25	180	10
568	Do	Do	895	172	95	172	80
569	Do	Do	895	85	90	85	80
570	Do	Do	895	86	80	86	70
571	Do	Do	895	105	75	105	65
573	Do	Do	893.7	7,691	75	7,685	00
574	Do	Do	895	173	30	173	15
575	Do	Do	878	866	15	865	80
576	Do	Do	894	14,756	15	14,743	40
577	Do	Do	895	86	50	86	40
578	Do	Do	885	433	20	432	50
579	Do	Do	895	216	80	216	60
580	Do	Do	892.5	2,597	80	2,595	55
581	Do	Do	897	13,883	85	13,871	85
582	Do	Do	896	13,882	70	13,860	70
583	Do	Do	894	866	75	866	00
584	Do	Do	898	130	85	130	70
585	Do	Do	897	13,023	50	13,012	25
586	Do	Do	897	8,681	05	8,673	55
587	Do	Do	897	13,011	35	13,010	00
588	Do	Do	895	481	55	481	10
589	American	Silver plate.	813	100	70	96	96
590	Mexican	Dollars	895	868	35	867	60
591	Mixed	Coins	897	691	80	691	00
592	Mexican	Dollars	898	86	80	86	80
593	Do	Do	896	86	50	86	35

594	Mexican Dollars	897	8,683	45	8,675	95
595	Silver plate	892	161	20	159	30
596	Mexican Dollars	897	89	20	89	05
597	Do Do	871	86	55	86	45
598	Do Do	896	4,425	55	4,421	70
599	Mixed Coins	893	85	90	85	70
600	Mexican Dollars	897	86	90	86	70
601	Mixed Coins	898	222	00	221	70
602	Mexican Dollars	894	511	55	500	10
603	Do Do	895	521	90	521	00
604	Do Do	897	86	85	86	75
605	Do Do	897	395	30	394	95
606	Mixed Coins	893	524	10	523	15
607	Mexican Dollars	897	86	70	86	60
608	Mixed Coins	890	85	30	84	80
609	Mexican Dollars	897	86	65	86	55
610	Mixed Coins & Test Bottoms.	910	364	50	363	10
611	Mexican Dollars	895	86	15	86	05
612	Do Do	896	500	50	500	15
613	Do Do	898	86	80	86	70
614	Do Do	898	86	90	86	80
615	Do Do	895	86	60	86	50
616	Do Do	897	86	55	86	45
617	Do Do	897	86	50	86	40
618	Do Do	896	898	45	896	95

Note: Title of deposites marked
A on the first page, assumed.

Branch Mint New Orleans
Treasurer's Office 4 May 1841
H. C. Cammack
Trr.

Statement of Gold deposites, received, at the Branch Mint, New Orleans, during the First Quarter, of 1841.

No.	Description of Bullion	Fineness	Gross Weight		Weight after Melting	
85	Gold balls, & Carolina pieces	891	3	48	3	38
86	Sovereigns	914	153	67	153	52
87	Do	914	669	50	668	80
88	Mexican & Columbian Doubloons	860	72	42	72	37
89	French 20 & 40 Franc pieces	895	70	41	70	40
90	Old American Eagles	911	12	63	12	62
91	Mixed Coins	889	55	02	54	97
92	Columbian Doubloons	867	234	44	234	29
93	Sovereigns	914	12	78	12	76
94	German Coins	892	5	54	5	53
95	Mixed Coins	910	27	16	27	12
96	Do Do (& some Old Eagles)	880	38	18	38	16
97	Do Do & some Old Eagles	907	16	94	16	93
98	German Coins	893	56	73	56	71
99	Alabama Gold dust	965	9	96	9	76
100	Columbian & Mexican doubloons	861	99	84	99	80
101	Mixed Coins	894	14	73	14	71
102	Mexican & Columbian doubloons	860	112	86	112	81
103	German Coins, & 2 foreign pieces	890	16	20	16	18
104	Alabama Gold dust	860	68	08	66	73
105	Columbian Doubloons	870	19	97	19	95
106	Mixed Coins	891	12	22	12	20
107	Mexican & Columbian doubloons	863	191	47	191	37
"	Sovereigns & 1/4 Eagles	914.5	86	40	86	35
"	French Gold	898.	16	16	16	15
"	German Coins	894	10	34	10	32
"	Italian & Sardinian 20 francs	897	6	01	6	00
"	Carolina $5. pieces	825	2	31	2	29
108	Sovereigns	915	66	25	66	23
"	20 franc pieces	898.5	11	59	11	58
"	Columbian & Mexican doubloons	865	178	61	178	46
109	Sovereigns	915	79	15	79	12
109	Doubloons	863	152	05	151	97

Treasurer's Office 4 May 1841.
H. C. Cammack
Tr.

Mint of the U. S.
May 13, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present Mail, a box of dies, ~~fr th~~ directed, on the inner envelope, to the Supt. of New Orleans Br. Mint, to be forwarded under your frank.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servt.
R. M. P.
Dir.

To
Hon. Thos. Ewing,
Sec. of Treas.

(To) Sec. of Treasury.

May 13. 1841.

Mint U.S.
May 22d 1841.

Sir,

I have duly received your letter of the 11th inst.

I thank you for the copy ~~t~~ you have sent me of your balance sheet to the end of March. I am always pleased to be kept informed of the transactions of the Branch Mints. As to the ~~balance~~ amounts of bullion in the hands of the Melter & Coiner, it is impossible for me to judge whether ~~it~~ they are excessive or not, since I ~~do no~~ am not informed of the dates of the deposites. I regret exceedingly, however, to observe that so ~~much is~~ large an amount of deposites remains unpaid. I hope that Dr. Riddell & Mr. Tyler will spare no exertion to give you the means of prompt payment on this account.

I think you need have no apprehension as to making payments of the deposites, ~~when~~ in the cases which you mention, where the client receipts have been lost. We have frequently made payment when the depositor had merely forgotten or neglected to bring the rough Mint receipt. The important point is that the Mint have *his* duplicate receipts for the payment when made.

I am surprised that you should have any difficulty as to the course to be taken with counterfeit dollars offered on deposite. Receive them, by all means, and cut them, if you like,—but do not return them. They almost all contain silver enough to be worth coining, and we frequently melt them down for coinage, when known to be false. — Indeed we have had pretty large deposites of ~~them made~~ known counterfeits made ~~for silver or for coinage~~ and coined.

R. M. P.
D

To/
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasurer of Br. Mint
New Orleans.

P. S. — I find that I have been mistaken as to your question, respecting ~~as to~~ counterfeit coins, and that you refer to money paid into the Sub treasury. In the cases of this kind which have occurred here, the coins have always been cut, a very proper practice which I am told is uniformly pursued by the Banks.

To/
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

May 22, 1841.

(Confidential)

U.S. Br. Mint New Orleans May 26th 1841

My Dear Sir

My Lady left New Orleans yesterday, in company with my brother Nelson, on a visit to her friends at the north, with the view of benefiting her health. Some six months since, she discovered what she imagined to be a cancer near her right breast; when I immediately consulted Dr. Warren Stone (our best surgeon), who thought it was not a cancer, but something which would require to be taken out. He has examined it once since, and was still in doubt, but thought it could be easily cut out. It has been constantly growing in size, and assuming more the symptoms of a cancer, such as shooting pains &c, untill we are very much alarmed about it, and I have thought it of the utmost importance that it should be examined by some eminent Physician, when she arrives in Philadelphia. And on account of her wish that it should not be mentioned to her friends, unless it should prove serious, I told her I would write to you, for advice, and assistance, which I have no doubt you will be willing to render, in the manner which I will propose. It was her intention not to stay in Philadelphia, more than one or two days, but to proceed to her uncles in Meridan Conn. where she wishes to remain about four weeks; after which to go to Boston to remain through the summer. Now my wish is that you would employ the best Physician with which you are acquainted, to examine her case, on her arrival in Philada. of which you will be informed by her, and to advise her, whether it is most advisable to go directly to her friends in Boston, where she would wish to be, in case a surgical operation was necessary under the charge of Dr Warren, an acquaintance of the family; or if some means can be used by which the disease can be driven away and allow her to continue her contemplated visit.

I beg also that you will confer with the physician, and not permit him to persuade her to any course, in which her happiness is not the sole object. You can imagine perhaps how anxious I have been to accompany her; but no one can be better aware of the circumstances which prevent my leaving here, than yourself. I feel confident you will pardon my troubling you with so important and delicate a trust. for which I hope to be ever grateful.

Mrs Tyler (the widow) left New Orleans, with her children, on the 21st inst. on board the barque Josephine, for Philadelphia. Mr Baldwin can inform you of the arrangements we have made for her future support. You will find your little namesake, a promising child.

I beg you will write me so soon as anything occurs to alleviate my suspense on account of the fears I feel for my beloved wife. And should there be a possibility of my leaving here, long enough to go to the north, if it is but for one month I pray you will give me early advice of it.

I am aware of the favour you did us last year, in procuring our short suspension. And I hope you will think it advisable for us to do the same this summer, which however, I leave with that Being, who is ever merciful and just.

You may expect my wife to be a
about the 6th of June. as she has gone by the way of Pitsburg.

I am Sincerely
Your Faithful Servant
Phins B. Tyler

To/
Dr R. M Patterson
Philadelphia

Fees

Philos B. Tyler, Esq
New Orleans
May 26/41.

PAID

To/ Dr R. M. Patterson
Director of the U.S. Mint
Philadelphia

Double. paid

Treasury Department
First Auditor's office
June 2^{d} 1841

Sir

In an abstract furnished by Mr. Cammack the present Treasurer of the New Orleans Branch Mint in regard to the transactions during Mr. Forstall's official period, he makes the following charge against Mr. Forstall— "This amount charged to Mr. Forstall by instructions of the Director of the Mint, in his letter of 9th November 1839, being for oz's $8^{\underline{698}}$ Standard Gold bullion (equivalent to $161.82) short credited to M. de Lizardi & Co in a deposite of bullion made by them in April 1838" — As Mr. Cammack has not furnished a copy of your letter, to avoid the great delay that would necessarily ensue writing to him, I have thought proper to write to you to request that you will please to furnish this office with all the information in your possession in regard to the above mentioned charge as soon as practicable

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
Your obdt. Servt.

Jn. Miller

To R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint
at Phila.

P. S. There is also another item of $28.35 said to be an overpayt. for a deposite made by Manuel Fragoso and charged to him in compliance with your instructions

WASHINGTON CITY D.C.
JUN
2

First Auditors Office
J. Miller

Robt. M. Patterson Esqr.
Director of the Mint
Phila. Penna.

From/ Jesse Miller, Esq.
1st Auditor Treasy.
Washington.
June 2, 1841.
Recd " 4 "

Mint U. S.
June 4th, 1841.

Sir,

In answer to the inquiry made in your letter of the 2d inst. respecting a charge made against Edmund Forstall, the late Treasurer of the New Orleans Branch Mint, "for 8.698 oz. standard gold bullion, short credited to Mess. Lizardi &Co.", I have to ~~make the following statement~~ state that a deposite of silver containing gold was made ~~at the~~ by this house, and that, by an oversight, as it is ~~believed~~ supposed, of the Assayer, a proper credit was not given for this gold. Subsequently it ~~was ascertained~~ appears that gold, ~~was contained in~~ from the deposite, ~~and of this~~ amounting to 8.698 oz. standard, was returned to the treasurer by the Melter & Refiner, Mr. Maxwell. This error was one of the subjects of complaint and investigation, during the troubles at the New Orleans Mint, and, as such, came under my particular consideration, and the result ~~is expressed in the following extract of a letter from me to the Superintendent, Mr. Kennedy, of the 9th of Nov. 1839~~ will be found in a report from me, accompanying that ~~Mr~~ from ~~Slidell the~~ District Attorney Slidell, sent to the Secretary of the Treasury on the 17th of October, 1839. On this was founded the instruction referred to in the entry of Mr. Cammack, and which is given in the following extract ~~of~~ from my letter to the Superintendent, of the 9th of November 1839.

"It has also been determined to my satisfaction, that Mr. Maxwell, in the settlement of July 1838, returned to Mr. Forstall the item of 8.498 ozs of standard gold, as so much more ascertained to be in the silver deposits of Mess. Lizardi and Co., than was at first reported. This amount has never been settled, nor even certified to the depositor. Mr. Forstall is therefore liable directly to government, which, in its turn, is liable to Mess. Lizardi and Co., for that much more than appears in his accounts. This matter has been thoroughly investigated here, and the above is my deliberate judgment upon it."

On the 28th of October 1839 Mr. Cammack wrote a letter to me, from which the following is an extract.— "One or two trifling errors, between the amount of certificates issued and the nett value of deposits, have been corrected. There is one, however, about which I am at a loss. Manuel Fagoso, on the 6th of August, deposited bullion valued at $125.37: a certificate was issued for $153.92: was paid on the 8th: the difference stands to his debit." On the 14th of November I wrote as follows, to Mr. Cammack, ~~with regard~~ in respect to this case.—

"As it regards — — — — — presumption."

R. M. P.
Q. M.

To/ Jesse Miller Esq.
First Auditor of Treasury.

To/
Jesse Miller, Esqr.,
First Auditor,
Washington.

June 4, 1841.

Treasury Department
June 9th. 1841.

Sir,

I transmit herewith a communication received from the Sup. of the Branch Mint at N. Orleans & will thank you for your opinion in relation to the suggestion contained in the letter from the Melter & Refiner enclosed by Mr. Kennedy.

I remain very Respy

T. Ewing
Sec. of the Treasury.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada.

From/
Sec. of Treasury.
June 9. 1841.
Rec'd " 11. "

Mint U. S. —
June 11th, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst., transmitting the correspondence of the Superintendent and Melter & Refiner of the New Orleans Mint, on the subject of the introduction of Slave labor into that Mint, and asking my opinion in relation to this matter.

I reply, without hesitation that I ~~am oppo-~~ think ~~the project~~ ~~the proposed~~ the proposal of Dr. Riddell to ~~sed to~~ employ~~ment of~~ Slaves, as workmen in the Mint, ~~and I~~ very objectionable, and I will state the following, among other reasons, for my opinion.

First, as it is out of the question that all the work ~~labor~~ can be entrusted to Slaves, their partial introduction would bring the white and black races together, either on such terms of equality as are ~~revolting~~ revolting and impracticable in the Southern States, or so as to ~~would~~ confine the whites to the mere office of overseers, and thus deprive the institution of their personal labor~~, so that even the expected economy, small as it is, would not be at realised~~.

Secondly, the Blacks being a degraded and ignorant race, are not as worthy of trust as the whites, and it would ~~be~~ therefore be dangerous to place reliance on their honesty. This, indeed, is not proposed by Dr. Riddell, who places his dependence upon clothes without pockets, and other precautions. I have, I confess, little faith in devices of this kind. ~~No man should be admitted into such an establish~~ The ~~naked~~ slaves who work in the diamond mines of Brazil, though kept naked, still find means of secreting the ~~prec~~ valuable gems about their persons. ~~No watchfulness~~

(Thirdly. One of the most important means of securing the fidelity of men in a Mint, is the system which necessarily exists among them of mutual supervision. Where men are constantly working together, it is almost impossible that one should pilfer without being seen by some of the others sooner or later. All are virtually overseers for the rest. But in the system proposed by Dr. Riddell, ~~there would~~, I ~~presume~~ the foreman alone is overseer, and, ~~who, it may be~~ besides the objection of less effective vigilance, it may be significantly asked who is to oversee him. Quis custodi=et Custodem? Not the ~~slaves~~ creatures of his will,— the mere machinery moved by his hand. If they should ever detect him, or any other white man about the establishment, in a fraud, their evidence would not be received; ~~He is placed there, in~~ a ~~dangerous~~ ~~tempting~~ ~~position~~) ~~of impunity~~. (~~The watchfulness of honest~~ and this fact alone seems to ~~be~~ me to be a sufficient objection to the proposed measure.

~~and intelligent men is useful even as it regards the officer at the head of a department.~~

~~One such officer, at the New Orleans Mint, was actually accused of peculation by an officer a workman under him; and, although I believe that the accusation was false and malicious, the fact shows that in this particular case, I should be sorry that an officer should be placed in a position where his actions could not be seen even by those in his employ~~

~~Fourt~~ Fourthly. Mr. Kennedy remarks that there is no provision, either in the law or instructions relative to the Mint, opposed to the measure ~~sug~~ brought forward by Dr. Riddell. This is true, because the case was not foreseen. There is, however, in another ~~department~~ branch of the government, a ~~regulation~~ ~~provision~~ rule which bears very directly upon the question. I allude to the regulation of the Post Office Department which forbids the employment of Slaves or even of free blacks as drivers of the Mail Coaches or carriers of the mail.

The last reason which I deem it necessary to mention, is the unnecessary shock which the proposed measure would give to both the parties into which our country is divided on the subject of Slavery. The Slave-holders would consider it a degradation to employ slaves along with white men, in the important and responsible operations of a Mint; and the anti-slavery party consider the ~~employment~~ use of slave labor a sin hiring of slaves a sin inferior only to that of owning them.

On the whole, then, I cannot approve of the employment of slaves as workmen at the Mints. The saving estimated by Dr. Riddell is very trifling, even if it should be realised, which I doubt. The remark, made in Dr. Riddell's letter, that he has heard that slaves are employed at the Dahlonega Mint, gave me great astonishment. ~~It is it would be strange, indeed, if~~ I am confident that it is a mistake; but I have written without delay, to make the inquiry. I think it, indeed, not improbable that slaves may have been employed for some temporary menial service, but it cannot be that they have been received into the establishment as workmen.

R. M. P.

To/ Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Sec. of Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
June 18th, 1841.

Sir,

I have lately heard, from the agent of Mr. Geo. Greenfield of New York, that Dr. Riddell's sweep has not been yet sent on to that house, and I therefore fear that it is still at your Mint. This gives rise to a delay in settling satisfactorily the accounts of the Melter & Refiner, which ought to be avoided.

~~On~~ ~~I have asked~~ At my request Dr. McClintock has kindly consented to undertake the assay and sale of your sweep, if you choose to send it to Philadelphia. This would relieve you from some risk; for Mr. Greenfield always takes the sweep at our estimate, and pays for it in advance. Before this course was adopted, we not only lost by the asserted valuation of the Refiner, but had sometimes great difficulty in getting our payment.

P.S. Your report for ~~May~~ ~~was~~ duly received.

R. M. P.
D.

To John M. Kennedy Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/
Jn. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New-Orleans.

June 18, 1841.

U. S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans June 4th 1841

Sir,

You will find enclosed the statement of our Operations for May, which was handed to me yesterday evening by the Treasurer.

I must, at the request of that Officer, renew our application for other weights in order that those we now have, may be sent on to Philadelphia for adjustment. Mr Tyler complains of the inconvenience frequently resulting from there not being a set for the exclusive use of his Department. The delays arising from this circumstance, both there, and in the Treasurer's Office, have often retarded our operations not a little. The removing the weights too, from one Department to another exposes them to the danger of becoming, more or less, inaccurate. You will confer an obligation, by accommodating us in this matter if possible.

The two last boxes received, a few days since, thro' the Secretary of the Trea- [illegible]

1 pr. of dime, and 1 pr. of ½ dime dies.

I am, Sir,

Very respectfully

Yr. obedt. Servt.

J. M. Kennedy

Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqr.
Director of the
Mint of the U. S.
Phila.

From/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
June 4, 1841.
Rec'd " 14, "
(May Report.)

Branch Mint New Orleans
Treasurer's Office 18 June 1841.

Sir

In a recent letter which you wrote to the Superintendent of this Br. Mint you mention that, by your understanding of the law regulating the mints of the United States, the Treasurer is responsible for the faithful and correct melting of deposites made in the mints for recoinage: with this understanding of my responsibility, I beg to lay before you the result of a melt & assay that was made in this mint a day or two ago.

A deposite for recoinage was made of 47000 Mexican dollars by the Mechanics & Traders Bank of this City. They were spread upon the floor, in the usual way, so as to mix them well, and three parcels, of about 800 ounces each, were taken out from different parts of the mass. Two of these were melted into separate bars, which were assayed and the titles reported by the assayer, as follows

No 736. A. —— 890.7
B — 895.5.

The very low rate of the first bar induced me to believe that the true title had not been ascertained; I therefore requested the assayer to cut slips from the reverse side, being the top, of the bars, which he assayed and reported - A — 896.9
B — 896.4

The third parcel was then melted, partially under my inspection, and slips cut from the top & bottom of the bar, which were reported by the assayer
C - Bottom 892.
Top — 898.2

and the title of the whole deposite returned at 894.

These irregularities in the titles of bars melted for assay cause me much anxiety and concern lest justice should not be done between the Government and the ~~private~~ depositors, by getting an incorrect title, and I now lay these facts before you with a view of soliciting from you such information and advice in the matter as your experience enables you to give.

Assay slips, in this mint, have usually been cut from the bottom of bars melted for assay, and from the fact that mexican dollars generally have been reported very low at this mint, sometimes lately @ 892. 893 &c, I fear that we may have failed in our efforts to get the true title of some of our recent deposites

With assurances of respect & esteem
I am very respectfully
Your faithful Servant
M. Cammack
Treasr

To Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

From | H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint.
New Orleans.
June 18. 1841.
Recd " 28. —

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia. —

Mint U.S.
June 29th, 1841.

Sir,

I have ~~received~~ to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th inst., and am sorry to see that your difficulties as to the title of Mexican dollars still continue. The discrepancies that exist in the assays ~~from~~ of slips taken from different parts of the same bar can be accounted for only by supposing that the melting is not properly executed. It is essential that the metal be well stirred and mixed together in the crucible, and that the heat be such as to give perfect fluidity to the mass. If these precautions be neglected, a uniform fineness cannot be expected, and as the base metal is the lightest, it will occupy the top of the pot, and find its place at the bottom of the bar. Now the variations between ~~the~~ your assays of the ~~same~~ upper and lower parts of the same bar, amounting to ~~[illegible]~~ 6 ths, — prove this imperfect mixture, and I should place no confidence in the conclusion on which your report was made, ~~[illegible]~~ that the mean of the two assays was the mean of the whole bar. Indeed ~~your report~~ the return is too low even if full weight be given to the first assay, 898.7; for, with this assay, the mean is 895., ~~and without it~~ Without it the mean is 895.8.

You are aware that a test of your returns exists in the assay of the ingots made from the melt, supposing the mixture to be rigidly made on the assumed title of 894.

We continue to take Mexican dollars at 897, and our ingots made on this assumption are quite satisfactory. I therefore retain my former impression, that you do not allow enough for your depositors of Mexican dollars.

When your letter ~~came into my hands~~ was received by me yesterday, I inquired if we had any silver bars on hand, on which a trial of the slips taken from the top and bottom could be made, and I found a very favorable example for the purpose, in two bars and a ~~fragment~~ small piece, from a melt of Mixed Coins, — some of them base German coins. The qualities were very unequal, and no unusual pains had been taken in melting. The results of the assay are as follows:

No. 1. —	Bottom	876
	Top	876.5
	Top	877
No. 2 —	Bottom	876
	Top	876.5
No. 3. —	Small piece, ~~last pouring~~	875.

I am very happy to see that your personal attention has been directed to the very important point involved in your letter, and I hope you will persevere 'till you are satisfied.

R. M. P.
D

To
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasurer of Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

P. S. I find that Dr. McClintock is not at all satisfied with the results given above of the melt of a silver deposite. He thinks the discrepancies, small as they are, show carelessness on the part of his men.

To/

H. C. Cammack, Esq.,
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

June 29, 1841.

(Private) U.S. Branch Mint, New Orleans

June 29th 1841

Dear Sir.

I recieved a letter yesterday from my wife, written at Springfield Mass. June 15th, in which she states, that when they arrived in Philadelphia, my brother was fearful that he should not get home in time to meet his engagements, in which case he might be deprived of a good situation &c and that he objected to making any stop in Philadelphia: consequently they arrived in the evening and left the next morning. She recieved my letter, informing her of my having written to you, just before leaving the city, and had not time to let you know of her condition. She was very much fatigued, and probably did not feel as much interest in the case as she should have felt: besides she did not wish to communicate to my brother the necessity of her stopping and as she did not wish to detain him without some good cause, she concluded to go with him direct to Springfield, where she could at any time see Dr Warren of Boston, in six hours. I regret very much that she did not call on you. and I beg you will consider the above circumstances. as an apology for the trouble which my previous letter may have caused you. I fear that an over delicacy. and her peculiar sensitiveness on the subject. with a natural dread of knowing the necessity of an immediate surgical operation. may prevent her from taking such measures. as her otherwise good sense. and the importance of the case would dictate, I have advised her to lose no time in calling on Dr Warren, and learning the worst. but I fear that a thousand circumstances will interpose, to cause delay untill it shall become too serious

[My anxiety to go the north is indiscribable; and I am not without hope that an opportunity will be offered me to do so. It appears that the chimnies of the Melting departments require to be rebuilt, and that the operations of this mint must be virtually suspended during the time of rebuilding. The Melter & Refiner tells me that he will lay the facts before the Superintendent so as to warrent a suspension for 2 months or more; But the Superintendent informs me that he does not feel willing to authorize the work to be done without consulting you. and that he will then ask your consent to suspend the mint from the 15th of August to the 1st of October, also that he thinks it can be arranged so that I can leave here on the 1st of Aug. and return on the 15th of October. If so, it will be an invaluable privilege to me. as I should not only be able to render my beloved wife such assistance as she may require, and visit friends and aged parents after an absence of nine years. but I think I should be able to get much valuable information by a visit to the mother Mint, as well as to transact some other business of importance to the Mint and its branches. I shall be very thankfull to you for advice — Please take notice of this months work.

Yours Sincerely.

Philos B. Tyler

To/
Dr R. M. Patterson

NEW ORLEANS LA.
JUN
30

PAID

Dr R. M. Patterson.
Director of the U.S. Mint
Philadelphia

From/ Philos B. Tyler, Esq.,
Coiner Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
June 29. 1841.
Rec'd July 9. "

Letter from the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint
to the Director at Philadelphia - June 29, 1841.

Branch Mint New Orleans
Treasurer's Office June 29. 1841.

dear Sir

I am anxious to visit philadelphia this summer for a short time. The Sub. Treasury bill will in all probability be repealed and I shall be relieved from the custody of the public moneys. and, I understand, the flues in the melting department of this Mint are to be rebuilt; this will cause a virtual, if not an actual, suspension in that department and consequently an interruption to the general operations of the establishment There will therefore be nothing, that I am aware of, in my public duties to require my presence here, and I write to consult you on the propriety of my making a short visit to the north.

I am ~~so~~ anxious again to see the operations in your mint now that I can better appreciate what I may witness and benefit from it.

I am, my dear Sir
your faithful Servt
H. C. Cammack

To Dr R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint -

All of my accounts up to the end of 1 qr 1841. have passed and there is now only one item of .80 ¢ difference between The Government & myself.

From/ H. C. Cammack, Esq.,
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

June 29. }
Rec'd July 9. } 1841.

To Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia.

July 1841

double only

50

To Doctor R. M. Patterson

Director U. S. Mint

Philadelphia.

From H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
July 4, 1841.
Recd " 15, "

Copy.

Dr. The United States, for the incidental & contingent expenses, & repairs of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, as paid to the following persons, from the 1st of April to the 30th of June 1841, inclusive, in pursuance of Warrants of the Superintendent, of the marginal dates & numbers, Viz:

1841		Nos.			Dollars	Cts
April	19	278	To Varnum Sheldon.	for Lumber for Coining dept.	17	50
"	23	279	" John Craig	" Mason work in Melting dept.	57	75
May	8	280	" Holmes & Mills	" 272 Tons 12 Cwt. Coal	1.233	90
"	"	281	" James D. Denegre.	" 195 Casks Lehigh Coal	1.023	75
"	"	282	" Frank Perrez	" Cupels for Assaying dept.	335	52
"	"	283	" J. G. Kaepke.	" glazing windows in the Mint.	16	25
"	10	284	" Comm.rs Ph. Water Works.	" supplying the Mint with water.	310	00
"	"	286	" Judah Parrett.	" Charcoal for Melting dept.	90	00
"	"	287	" A. Roberts.	" blacksmith work in Coining dept.	16	25
"	"	288	" P. Martin	" Drugs &c. for Melting dept.	75	97
"	11	289	" Jno. Johnson	" freight of goods from Philadelphia.	12	02
"	"	290	" W. Whitney & Others.	" Watching the Mint in April	255	00
"	"	291	" W. Parks & W. J. Boyd.	" Services as Porter & doorkeeper.	120	00
"	"	292	" Geo. Clamann	" Services as day Watch &c. in April	60.	00
"	12	294	" Thomas Carew	" Mason work for Coining dept.	38	12
"	13	295	" Thompson Phillips	" Carpenter work in Melting dept.	135	00
"	17	296	" Layton & Co.	" Hardware furnished the Mint.	702	44
"	"	297	" John Hewlett.	" Charcoal for Melting dept.	156	87
"	"	298	" F. H. Petitpain	" 54 Cords wood for Coining dept.	270	00
"	19	299	" E. Johns & Co.	" Stationary for Coiner's Office	25	50
"	"	300	" Chas. Guesnard	" Charcoal for Melting dept.	10	00
"	26	301	" J. Pilland	Tallow for Coining dept.	62	92
"	31	303	" W. Whitney & Others.	" Watching the Mint in May	263	50
"	"	304	" W. Parks & W. J. Boyd	" Services as Porter & doorkeeper	124	00
"	"	305	" Geo. Clamann.	" Services as day watch & Laborer in May	62	00
June	2	306	" Wm. P. Hort.	" Sundry articles for assay dept.	12	00
"	5	307	" A. C. Webb.	" 50 Coin boxes for Coining dept.	50	00
				" Carried forward	$ 5.536	26

1841		Nos.				
			Brought forward.		5.536	26
June	23	308	To A. Young.	for Carpenter work for assay dept.	20	25
"	28	309	" R. M. Patterson, Director, for expenses incurred at Phila. for acct. of this Branch Mint, as per accompanying bills, Viz: Ja. McAllister & Co., per receipt No. 70. $ 2.50 " A. W. Metcalf. " " " 71. 21.92 " Curtis & Hand, " " " 73. 53.30		77	72
June	30	310	" W. Whitney & Others.	for watching the Mint in June	255	00
"	"	311	" W. Parks & W.d Boyd.	" Services as Porter & doorkeeper	120	00
"	"	312	" Samuel Smith	" services rendered in June	52	00
"	"	313	" James Allen	" Candles for Treasurer's Office	65	16
"	"	316	" J. J. Wickes.	" expenses incurred a/c Mint.	149	02
"	"	317	" Daniel Dana	" blacksmith work for Coinig. dept.	115	75
					$ 6.391	16

Branch Mint, of the United States, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office June 30th 1841.

Copy.

Dr. The United States, in Account Current with Horace C. Cammack, Treasurer of the Branch Mint, New Orleans, his account of the ordinary receipts & expenditures, for the quarter ending the 30th of June 1841. Cr.

1841			Dollars	Cts	1841			Dollars	Cts
June	30	To amount paid from the 1st April to the 30th June, inclusive, for the incidental & contingent expenses & repairs of the Br. Mint, as per statement & warrants marked. E1.	6.391	16	March	31	By Balance remaining in the Treasurer's hands, as per account rendered to this date.	1.613	12
"	"	" Amount paid for wages of Laborers, employed in the Branch Mint, as per statement & warrants, marked. E.2.	4.803	11	May	8	" Amount of Draft of the Treasurer of the United States. No. 5048. for the incidental & contingent expenses & repairs, of the Mint, wages of Laborers, and Salaries of the Officers & Clerks.	13.450	00
"	"	" Amount paid for the Salaries of the Officers & Clerks, of the Branch Mint, for the quarter ending this day, as per statement & warrants marked. E.3.	3.225	00	"	18	" this amount received from Layton & Co. being so much overcharged in their bill, paid second quarter of 1840. and deducted in my account, in adjustment by the Comptroller of the Treasury.	7	50
"	"	" this amount being loss on recoinage of foreign Gold & Silver Coins, during the quarter ending this day as per statement & warrants marked. E.4.	57	23	June	25	" this amount received from Zacharie Hillman & Co being so much overcharged in bill paid to them on the 30th March 1841.		80
"	"	" Balance to new account.	594	92					
			$ 15.071	42				$ 15.071	42

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, June 30th 1841.

Dear Sir

As you have several times expressed gratification at receiving copies of our quarterly accounts. I send you copy of my disbursement account & acct Current for ordinary expenses for quarter ending 30 Ultimo. The bills now outstanding unpaid amount to $1470.-

I am yours very truly
H.C. Cammack
4 July 1841.

To Dr. Patterson.

U. S. Branch Mint N. Orleans
July 5. 1841.

Sir,

Enclosed you have our statement for June.
I have laid your l of the 18th. ult. before Dr. Riddell. It has drawn from him a letter to me relative to his sweep; I will communicate it to you in a day or two -
The flues of our Melting Department are greatly out of repair: They will require rebuilding altogether and this will of necessity lead to another suspension of operations for about six weeks - Mr. Gallier, who stands high, in our city, as an Architect, after having, at my request, made an examination of them reports as follows: "I am surprised that flues of so small a size as these could be made to answer the purposes of melting so long as these have. The flues are not larger than those usually built for common dwelling house fire places, and have not more than four inches of brick-work round them, from both of which causes the chimneys are very much cracked and burnt out. I am therefore of opinion, that it is indispensable for the proper action of the furnaces that the present chimneys be taken down and new ones built from the bottom &c."

Dr. Hort [illegible] Department is imme-

in answer to a note from him; " I have only to repeat
" what I have often stated to you, that they (the flues)
" have been always defective. The former Melter and
" Refiner complained bitterly of them, and had determined
" before he died in 1839, to use the furnaces no more
" until the flues were pulled down and proper ones
" built. I ~~have~~ am satisfied that you have double, if
" not treble labour to perform in consequence of
" them, and that in certain states of the atmosphere
" you must fail completely." They (the furnaces)
" are becoming more and more defective every day
" from the cracking of the walls of the flues and
" the loss of mortar which is burnt out, and so great
" is the heat produced in my assay department
" by these flues, when you are at work, that I
" often feel very apprehensive of fire, to say
" nothing of the great inconvenience which I must
" necessarily suffer. I can no longer consider
" the rebuilding the flues in your Department
" as a matter of expediency. I am convinced
" that it has now become one of absolute necessity."

As the whole of this month will not more than suffice to work up the bullion we now have on hand, I have directed that the receiving of further deposits be discontinued until we can hear from you in relation to this suspension which I pray you to sanction, should you be of opinion that the state of those flues, as described by [illegible] requires that they should

be rebuilt. In that event Mr. Tyler is anx
to go to the Philadelphia Mint to obtain such in-
formation as the opportunity will allow. Will you
be good enough to decide that matter at the same
time -

Very respectfully
Yr. obt Servt.
J. McNamee
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the
Mint of the U. S.
Phil.

P. S. The Coiner desires you to send us two pair of
dime dies.

From/
Jos. M. Kennedy,
Supt. Br. Mint.
New Orleans.

July 5, 1841.
Recd " 15, "

(June Report.)

U. S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans July 9th 1841

Sir,

That part of Dr. Riddell's letter refer'd to in
my last to you, which relates to his Sweep, is in the
following words:

" I have before me the letter to you from Dr.
" Patterson, in relation to my Sweep, dated June 18th.
" Not many days since, I rec'd a letter on the same
" Subject from Messrs. Greenfield & Seagman, the
" sweepsmelters mentioned by Dr. Patterson."

" To provide against Shipwreck and
" other contingencies, it would be requisite to have
" the value of the Sweep estimated before it
" goes out of this Mint, the correctness of weight
" recognized by the Treasurer, and the quality
" or richness determined by the Assayer. I shall
" then wish that my account be credited by the
" Treasurer on your warrant for the amount, the whole
" contingent expenses of casks or boxes, drayage
" freight and the expense of smelting being
" borne by the contingent fund of the Mint: in short
" that the Mint assume all risk and expense in
" the premises."

" Upon the receipt of your reply
" relatin to the ab[illegible] I will take the earlie

"leisure to prepare it for shipment, in time to
"meet the views of Dr. Patterson" –

I have said to the Melter & Refiner that according to our instructions, he is to be credited with the estimated value of his sweep "after deducting all charges". He informs me that in Philadelphia, the expense of smelting is borne by the Mint – Be good enough to direct me upon that point.

Another difficulty presents itself in the fact of Doctor Riddell's having, since the close of the year, mixed up with the sweep which he had on hand at that period, as well, that which has accumulated since, as Mr. Maxwell's, with which he was debited at the time. Is he now to send on the whole, he to be credited in his account for the present year with the difference in value between the proceeds thereof, and the amount to which he was entitled at the close of the last year according to Dr. Hort's certificate, or, is he to forward, as nearly as it can be arrived at, the quantity certified to therein."

I am Sir, very respectfully

Y. obd. Servt.

J. M. Kennedy

Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq.

Director of the

Mint of the U. S.

Phil.

NEW ORLEANS LA.
JUL
11

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director of the Mint
of the U. S.
Philadelphia

From Jos. M. Kennedy Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
July 9, 1841.
Rec'd " 20. "

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of June 1841.

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces,	dec	Ounces	dec	Dollars,	cts	Dollars,	cts	Dollars,	cts
Gold:										
No deposites of Gold received this month										
Silver:										
Foreign Coins,	98.126	75	97.643	45	113.621	05	113.478	72		
Foreign Bullion,	94	70	98	90	115	08	114	77		
									113.736	13
Total deposites									113.736	13

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars,	cts	Dollars,	cts
Gold:					
Eagles,	800	8.000	00		
				8.000	00
Silver:					
Half Dimes,	160.000	8.000	00		
Dimes,	597.000	59.750	00		
Quarter Dollars,	7.000	1.750	00		
Half Dollars,	65.000	32.500	00		
				102.000	00
	830,300				
Total Coinage				110.000	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office, June 30th 1841.

H. Cammack
Treas.r

Sir

I have received your Letter of the 29th ultimo, and note the contents particularly -

From your remark, that you are glad to see, that my personal attention has been directed, to the important point, which is the subject of your Letter; I fear you may be under the impression, that I have heretofore neglected it - I beg to assure you, such has not been the case. I have constantly expressed my surprise, and dissatisfaction, at the low assays of Mexn. dollars, and have stated to the Officers of the Mint, my opinion, that depositors did not in all cases, get the full value of their deposits - indeed, my course in this matter, I very much fear, has already incurred for me, some displeasure in this Establishment.

This, in part however, could not be well avoided, for every movement of mine in the business, carries with it, a tacit avowal on my part, of a want of confidence in the correctness of the operations of the M&R. and acting alone, it has been to me, a most unpleasant, and unsatisfactory duty to perform - This explanation is made by me, only in justification of myself, in consequence of your remark, and of the delicacy of the position in which I am placed, by being made responsible, for the

correct

correct and faithful melting of deposits, and I will be obliged if you will consider it, in that light -

As we do not now receive deposits for Coinage, of course this subject will not again be brought before us for the present - I hope at the resumption of operations in the Autumn, the melting of deposits will be made, in a manner that will be more satisfactory

With considerations of respect & esteem

I am, Your faithful Servant

H. C. Cammack

New Orleans
10 July 1841.

To Dr R. M. Patterson

From H. C. Cammack, Esq
Treasurer Br. Mint
N. Orleans.
July 10/41.

Recd. 26th.

To Dr R. M. Patterson
U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

NEW ORLEANS

Mint of the United States.
July 12th, 1841.

Sir,

I send, subjoined, applications from two of the Officers of the New Orleans Mint for leave of absence from that establishment, from the middle of August to the middle of October, during which time it appears that the operations ~~&~~ must be necessarily suspended, in consequence of repairs required in the Melter's department. You are aware that very little business of any kind is transacted at New Orleans during that period of the year; and, if the services of the officers are not required, I think the information which they, ~~might der~~ — particularly the Coiner, — might derive from a visit to Philadelphia, would be very useful to them. Of course the leave of absence will not be given without ~~a~~ the expressed desire of ~~the written application from~~ the Superintendent, ~~and of this I have no doubt; but, even in that event,~~ but in no event I would ~~I not~~ feel authorised to act without your approbation, and I therefore write for the purpose of submitting the case to you. Under similar circumstances, leave of absence was granted last Summer, ~~to~~ with the consent of the Department, to the Melter and the Coiner, but the latter was not able to avail himself of it.

Very respectfully
Your faithful servant
R. M. T.

To/
Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Sec. of Treasury.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

July 12/41.

July 14. 1841

dear Sir

I have today drawn on you favr Dr W. P. Hort, assayer, at sight for Two Hundred dollars against the funds of this Br. Mint in your hands which please to honor.

Dr Hort has given me the amount of this draft in Gold coins, and he will be obliged if you can pay it in the same coins as it is a remittance for his ~~daughters~~. Children.

I am
very respectfully
your obt servant
H Cammack
Trs.

To Dr R. M. Patterson

From/
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

℞ July 14, 1841.
Rec'd Oct. 28. "

Draft for $200.

Treasury Department
July 14. 1841.

Sir

I have received your communication of the 12th inst transmitting the applications of the Treasurer and Coiner of the Branch Mint at N. Orleans for leave of absence from that establishment from the Middle of August to the Middle of October next.

If no inconvenience or delay in the operations of that Branch will be caused by the absence of those officers it would seem to be but reasonable that their requests should be complied with – Of that, however, you must be the judge.

But the absence of Mr. Kennedy as Receiver General cannot be authorised by the Department If he thinks proper to absent himself and leave a deputy to perform his duties, he must do so at his own risk and on his own responsibility.

Very Respectfully

T. Ewing
Sec of the Treas.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Philada.

From
Sec. of Treasury
July 14/61.

Recd 16th.

Mint U.S.
July 15/41.

Sir,

On the 12th inst. I ~~applied for your appro-~~ wrote to consult you as to an application ~~bation~~ for leave of absence, from the New Orleans Mint, ~~in behalf of~~ made by the Coiner and the Treasurer, on the ground that necessary repairs in the floors of the Melting-room would ~~render~~ ~~necessary~~ require a suspension of the operations of that establishment, for some weeks. I have received, this morning, a letter from the Superintendent, Mr. Kennedy, in which he gives the written opinions of the Assayer, Dr. Hort, and of an architect, Mr. Gallier, to show that the proposed repairs are ~~necessary~~ essential, and asks my sanction to the suspension which will be required if they be executed. He at the same time applies for leave of absence for the Coiner Mr. Tyler. The whole question is thus presented in regular form.

R. M. P.
D

C/

Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Sec. of Treasury.

To / Sec. of Treasury.

July 15/41.

Mint U.S.
July 16 1841.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5 inst., with the report of the operations at your Mint for June.

Your representations with regard to the flues of the Melting department seem to be conclusive as to the necessity of having them rebuilt. ~~but I am not sure that a defect in size has been in drawing the~~ To guide you in this work it may be well for me to state that the flues of our melting-room chimnies are about 10 ~~7~~ inches by 14 ~~inches square~~ in the opening. ~~Some, indeed, are not square, but this is still about the area of the section.~~ For a part of the distance above the fire, say ten feet, they are lined with fire brick to the thickness of the breadth of a brick. The sides of the chimnies are 9 inches thick.

So far as this repair will interrupt the operations at your Mint, a suspension must necessarily ~~be~~ occur; but you will see the importance of limiting this suspension to the shortest practicable time.

I have had communications from the Treasurer and the Coiner of your Mint, asking that, with your consent, leave of absence should be granted to them during the suspension of ~~the operations~~ business. I ~~have~~ deemed it necessary and proper that this ~~Dep~~ application should be referred to the Department at Washington, and I have just received a letter on the subject from the Secretary of the Treasury, in which he says:

"If no inconvenience or delay in the operations of that Branch will be caused by the absence of those officers, it would seem to be but reasonable that their requests should be complied with. Of that, however, you must be the judge. But the absence of Mr. Kennedy [Mr. Cammack] as Receiver General cannot be authorised by the Department. If he thinks proper to absent himself and have a deputy to perform his duties, he must do so at his own risk and on his own responsibility."

I beg you to communicate this answer to Mr. Cammack and Mr. Tyler. As to the latter officer, I presume there can be no difficulty in acceding to his ~~wish~~ ~~application~~ desire. It must be distinctly understood, however, that there must be no after-application, as in the case of Dr. Riddell, for the expenses of his journey.

R. M. P.
D

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

To/ Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq

Sup. Br. Mint,

New Orleans.

July 16/41.

Branch Mint, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office, July 17. 1841.

Sir,

I enclose copy of the Balance Sheet of the Bullion Account of this Branch Mint, at the close of the second quarter of the present year, and a memorandum of the deposites remaining unpaid up to this date.-

You will observe that the amount of Gold in the Mint, is upwards of $31.000.- while no Gold deposite remains unpaid.- As the Government deposite is leſs than that sum, there is an insufficiency of Silver in the Mint, to reimburse the Depositors of Silver bullion.- The law requires payments to be made in Coins of the same metal that the deposite is made; I am therefore, at a loſs to know how to make payment, when the bullion in the Mint has been coined.- The Gold bullion of the Mint, was increased during the beginning of 1839. when, I understand, Gold deposites were paid in Silver Coins.- Please to give me your advice on this subject, & believe me

Yours very faithfully

H. C. Cammack
T.

To/
Dr R. M. Patterson,
Director U. S. Mint

New Orleans Br. Mint, June 30, 1841.

$ 31,282.31	Gold in the Mint
458.90	" deposite unpaid.
$ 30,823.41	" Surplus.

$ 179,371.26	Silver deposites unpaid.
169,841.49	" in the Mint
$ 9,529.77	" deficit.

$ 30,823.41	Gold surplus.
9,529.77	Silver deficit.
$ 21,293.64	Net surplus on hand.

$ 23,238.10	Govt. deposite.
397.70	Profit & Loss. (Gain)
$ 23,635.80	Surplus called for.
21,293.64	do. on hand, as above.
$ 2,342.16	— E. Forstall's deficit.

30,823.41	Gold surplus
23,238.10	Govt. deposite
7,585.31	Excess of gold, supposing all the Govt dept paid in gold.
9,529.77	
1,944.46	
397.70	Profit
2,342.16	Mr. Forstall's deficit.

From/
H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

July 17, 1841.
Rec'd " 29. "

Dr. Branch Mint of the United

1841			Dollars	Cts
June	30	To the Coiner, his account of Gold, for 150 $\frac{281}{1000}$ Oz. Standard Gold, to be accounted for by him. (abstract No. 1)	2,808	85
		" the Coiner, his account of Silver, for 18,799.44 Oz. Standard Silver, to be accounted for by him. (abstract No. 2)	21,875	70
		" the Melter & Refiner, his account of Gold, for 1,212 $\frac{961}{1000}$ Oz. Standard Gold, to be accounted for by him. (abstract No. 3)	22,566	70
		" the Melter & Refiner, his account of Silver, for 81,732.19 Oz Standard Silver, to be accounted for by him. (abstract No. 4)	95,106	53
		" Gold Coinage, for balance of this account. (abstract No. 7)	5,906	76
		" Silver Coinage, for balance of this account. (abstract No. 8)	52,859	26
		" Edmund Forstall, late Treasurer of the Branch Mint, for balance of this account. (Abstract No. 11)	2,342	16
		Carried forward.	$203,465	96

tates, at New Orleans. Cr.

1841			Dollars	Cts
June	30	By United States Deposite account, For balance of this account (abs. No. 9)	23,238	10
		„ Profit & Loss, for balance of this account (abs. No. 10)	397	70
		„ The Louisiana State Bank for 1 Silver deposite due them	999	39
		„ „ Union Bank of Louisiana „ 4 do do do do	30,110	49
		„ „ Exchange & BKg. Company „ 5 do do do	17,032	50
		„ „ Consolidated Bank „ 1 do do do	724	25
		„ Lewis B. Willis „ 1 Gold do do	458	90
		„ The Citizens' Bank of Loua. „ 3 Silver do do	49,186	68
		„ „ City Bank of New Orleans „ 5 do do do	4,984	52
		„ „ Merchants' Bank of N.O. „ 4 do do do	50,289	18
		„ Benoist Hackney & Co. „ 2 do do do	1,509	11
		„ R. H. Bowen „ 1 do do do	147	97
		„ John Rollins „ 1 do do do	199	78
		„ Bartlett & Adams „ 1 do do do	99	80
		„ John Frederick „ 2 do do do	199	94
		„ C. A. Regnier „ 1 do do do	602	67
		„ Thomas Powell „ 2 do do do	425	67
		„ John C. Norcross „ 1 do do do	99	80
		„ W. H. Fisk „ 1 do do do	1,001	17
		„ D. F. Gues „ 1 do do do	131	37
		„ J. F. Laville „ 1 do do do	200	80
		„ Louis Moret „ 1 do do do	300	27
		„ Francoise Bachelier „ 1 do do do	200	34
		„ F. M. Young „ 1 do do do	1,501	90
		„ Office Citizens' Bank „ 1 do do do	199	53
		„ J. F. Barthelemy „ 1 do do do	105	56
		„ Jane Da Costa „ 1 do do do	199	66
		„ Horace Bean & Co. „ 5 do do do	5,500	82
		„ John L. Sterry „ 1 do do do	998	08
		„ B. Ougatte „ 2 do do do	199	35
		„ Sickles & Co. „ 1 do do do	200	13
		„ J. Rebola „ 1 do do do	199	44
		„ Walter Field „ 1 do do do	1,003	36
		„ Chas. C. Lyon „ 1 do do do	100	09
		„ Joseph Lobrano „ 1 do do do	199	84
		„ B. Nollner „ 1 do do do	200	47
		„ O. Kingsbury. „ 1 do do do	848	41
		„ A. Xiques. „ 1 do do do	99	69
		„ Philos B. Tyler „ 1 do do do	398	90
		„ J. L. Riddell „ 1 do do do	106	58
		Carried Forward	$194,602	23

1841	To Amount brought forward,	203.465 96
		$203.465 96

Mint of the United States,
July 28, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, a box of dies, directed, on the inner envelope, to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to be forwarded under your frank, as heretofore.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. P.
Director.

To/
Hon. Thos. Ewing,
Sec. of Treas.

To/ Sec. of Treasury.

July 28, 1841.

July 1841

Mint U.S.
July 30/41.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., with the accompanying statements ~~documents~~, which are of much interest.

The case which you present to my consideration, of the excess of gold and deficit of silver, is embarrassing. The error formerly committed of paying gold deposits in silver could hardly fail to give rise to this evil in the end. It is clear however, that it must now be corrected, and I think it may be lawfully done, by considering the ~~gold in excess as~~ government deposite as comprised in your excess of gold, ~~which exceeds it by $7,585.31~~. With this ~~the~~ public fund you have made purchases of bullion for coinage; and there is nothing in the proviso in Sect. 12, of the deposite act of July 1836, which would be contravened by your purchasing gold with silver, or the reverse. If, then, your depositors will consent to receive their payment in gold coins, (which our depositors would prefer,) I think that, with the approbation of the Superintendent, ~~this~~ payments may be thus made, to the amount of the deficit of silver, viz $9,529.77/

R. M. P.,
D.

To/
H. C. Cammack, Esq.,
Treasurer of Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

P.S. — Please mention to the Supt. that we sent to him, on the 28th, through the Sec. of Treas., 1 tail ½ dollar die & 2 prs. dime dies. —

To/ H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

July 30. 1841.

Silver deposits unpaid July 18th 1841.

		Names of depositors	Half dollars		dimes		1/2 dimes	
No	576	Citizens' Bank	17.041	58				
	581	do	16.087	98				
	582	do	16.057	12				
	585	Merchants' Bank	10.059	20				
	586	do	15.091	04				
	587	do	15.076	95				
	594	do (Balance)			800	00	1000	00
	662	Exchange Bank			1904	06		
	664	do			2026	95		
	665	do			1154	01		
	676	R. H. Bowen			100	00	47	97
	686	City Bank					995	31
	687	Union Bank	4.629	85				
	688	do	4.632	11				
	689	do	9.262	96				
	690	do	11.585	57				
	693	Bartlett Adams					100	08
	723	D. F. Gueux					131	37
	727	F. M. Young			1.501	90		
		Carried over	119.524	36	7.486	92	2.274	73

		Names of depositors	Half dlls.		dimes		1/2 dimes	
		amt brot over	119.524	36	7.486	92	2274	73
No.	746	B. Nottner					200	47
	756	John Friedrick					99	92
	757	Gustav Leroy					100	15
	758	N. O. Exchange & Banking Co	10.044	52				
	760	Ed. Morrison					99	01
	762	Raphael Lamarfa			3.004	21		
	765	Juan Lorenzo					99	57
	772	Miguel Gabriel					99	97
	774	S. Vincent					100	37
	776	A. Ribet					99	92
			129.568	88	10.491	13	3.174	11

Mint U.S. — July 21/41.

Sir,

I hasten to reply to your letter of the 9th inst., presenting Dr. Riddell's views with regard to his sweep. ~~to~~

I consider Dr. Riddell's claims in this business to be right except as to one point, namely that the expense of smelting should be borne out of the contingent fund. The cost of casks, portrage, and freight may properly be ~~ch~~ borne by the ~~contingent fund of the~~ Mint, but not the deduction made by the smelter. This ~~has~~ is never done at ~~th~~ our institution. All that is not returned by the Melter to the Mint in bullion is waste. ~~and~~ It is his duty to see that this be kept within the ~~liberal~~ limits set by the law, and our experience shows that, with proper care, this can be done ~~very~~ readily. For this purpose no measure is more important than a frequent ~~settling~~ settlement of the account, and a *complete* settlement. As yet ~~[illegible]~~ none, such has been made with Dr. Riddell, for the market value of his sweep has not to this day, been ascertained, and the bullion which can be actually procured for it has not been transferred to the Treasurer. I hope you will see that, the settlement of so important an account be not delayed any longer.

I have no other anxiety to have the Sweep sent here ~~than~~ that which arises from my desire that a full and just value be procured for it. If Mess. Greenfield & Longman will take it at your assay and weight, and pay you for it *in advance*, it will be very unnecessary to send it here, and ~~would~~ subject us to a labor which you cannot suppose that we willingly invite. But ~~I~~ it is wiser for you to learn by our experience than by your own, and we have found that it is not safe to trust this kind of business to the mere good faith of the smelters. While we did so, ~~we~~ our returns were far short of what we now obtain, and on one occasion we had to bring suit before we could get any thing.

You say ~~they~~ that Mr. Riddell has mixed up the Sweep of the present year with the last. This difficulty is readily obviated by the desirable course of settling up his account to the time of your summer ~~close~~ suspension of operations. If the sweep is sent to us immediately, the exact returns from them can be ascertained before you resume your work, and you will have the satisfaction, ~~of~~ at last, of having this account closed *settled*. As to Mr. Maxwell's sweep, since Dr. Riddell was debited with its estimated value, and since it was not kept distinct, he must remain debited to this amount, and ~~his counter~~ the returns from the Assayer must cover this as well as the other charges against him, ~~and~~ within the ~~legal~~ limit of allowance prescribed by law.

R. M. P.
D

F/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
~~Ch~~ New Orleans.

P. S. I had a correspondence with Mr. Cammack, in the end of last month, on the subject of ~~appar~~ differences in the assays, made at your Mint, from the bottom & top of the same bars. — Mr. Eckfeldt, who has just called in at my office, informs me that two melts of mixed coins were made this morning in different pots and by different mea that each melt was cast into two bars; and that he took assay-pieces from the bottom of the first and the top of the second of each pair of bars, — these corresponding with the top and bottom ~~of the~~ respectively of each pot. The result of the assay was as follows:

First pair. — Bottom of 1st bar 881.0 ths; top of 2d bar 881.0.

Second pair. — Bottom of 1st bar 881.0; top of 2d bar 880.5.

No particular care was taken in the melting, as the men did not know that any trial of the uniformity of the melts was to be made.

July 21, 1841.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.r
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

New Orleans July 30th 1841

These are to certify that we have this day at the request of Philos B Tyler, Coiner of the New Orleans Branch Mint, examined in that establishment a Machine for facilitating the counting of small Coins, which Machine was said to have been invented by the late Rufus Tyler, the Brother & Predecessor of the said Coiner.. The said Machine is so perfectly simple that it can be used with facility by any person after a few minutes instruction, and by it the number of pieces can be ascertained with mathematical certainty, and in the opinion of the subscribers with such rapidity that an expert hand could count as many pieces in fifteen or twenty minutes as he could count in the ordinary way in a day.

J. M. Kennedy

Jacob Barker

A. L. Cammack
Treasr.
Branch Mint N. Orleans

From / Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq
Jacob Barker, "
H. C. Cammack "
New Orleans.
July 30. 1841.
Recd. Aug. 12. "

Certificate of the successful operation of Mr. Tyler's Counting machine.

August 1841

U. S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans, August 6. 1841

Sir,

I recd. yesterday from our Treasurer the Statement of our Operations for July, which I now enclose –

Your letter of the 21st. ult. has been duly recd. I will see that, as soon as practicable, Dr. Riddell's account be rendered up to the time of the suspension, and finally disposed of.

Very respectfully
Y. obedt. Servt.
J M Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint
of the U. S.
Phila.

From
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint,
New Orleans
Aug. 6/41.

Rec. 16th.

(Report for July.)

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of July 1841.

Deposites

Kind of Deposits	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces,	dec	Ounces,	dec	Dollars,	cts	Dollars,	cts	Dollars,	cts
Silver:										
Foreign bullion	979	40	1068	63	1243	49	1240	29		
Foreign Coins	358	60	351	42	408	92	407	73		
									1652	41
Total deposites									1652	41

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars,	cts	Dollars,	cts
Silver:					
Half Dimes,	245.000	12.250	00		
Dimes,	167.500	16.750	00		
Quarter Dollars,	156.000	39.000	00		
				68.000	00
Total Coinage				68.000	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office, July 31. st. 1841.
H.C. Cammack
Treasurer.

SHIPPED in good order and ~~well~~-conditioned, by Joseph M Kennedy Esqr on board the
good Ship called the Louisville whereof
Hunt is Master for this present voyage, and now
lying in the port of **New Orleans,** and bound for New York
To say,

Sold by James Beattie, 37 Camp-st.

J B Tyler
1 c 6
care
Dr R M Patterson
Director U. S. Mint
Phila

Six Boxes

Being marked and numbered as in the margin, and are to be delivered in the like good order and well-conditioned, at the aforesaid Port of New York (the dangers of the seas only excepted) unto E K Collins & Co or to them Assigns, he or they paying Freight for the said boxes
fifteen cents per foot
with 5% primage and average accustomed.

In witness whereof, the Master or Purser of the said vessel hath affirmed to 4 Bills of Lading, all of this tenor and date; one of which bills being accomplished, the others to stand void.

Dated at **New Orleans,** Sixth August 1841

Contents unknown
Jas M Hunt
James Coop

NEW ORLEANS
AUG
7

R. M. Patterson Esqr.
Director U. S. Mints
Philadelphia
P. A.

From / Capt. M. Hunt
Ship Louisville
New Orleans
Aug 6/41.

Recd. 16th

Branch Mint New Orleans
August 14. 1841

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director.

Sir

At the request of Mr. Kennedy I address you in regard to our sweep. A copy of your letter of July 21st relative thereto was handed to me this day. We have not yet suspended the melting of ingots, so that I have not yet had leisure to give the requisite attention to sweeps. I have no definite idea of its amount or richness; yet I have reason to believe there will twice as much as you would expect, because the rickety imperfect condition of our flues, has caused probably double the consumption of charcoal, for the same amount of melting, as in your mint. Hence double the amount of ashes. At the end of a week or so, I shall probably devote my whole attention to washing, drying, weighing, barrelling, assaying, and registering the sweeps until the task is completed.

The way I have the thing arranged the very lightest of the sweeps runs with the water into a large reservoir, where it subsides, as an impalpably fine schlich or mud. I do not believe this contains $8. per hundred pounds. If so, I suppose it would be better to let it remain and leave it out of the account, rather than to put the mint to expense upon it for nothing. Let me assure you that I appreciate the kind offer of your agency in the matter. Our plan is to ship it to your mint when prepared; to effect which purpose I have intended diligently to avail myself of the suspension.

I have made several trials of a new plan for extracting the precious metals from sweep or ore, without recourse to quick silver, water or smelting. The results so far have been entirely satisfactory. I believe the plan is original. When I shall have completed a few more experiments chalked out, I will at once communicate the whole to you. Cost of apparatus $200 nearly, — materials very trifling — labor, — far less than by amalgamation. I cannot suppose that it will cost even here $3. per 100 lbs to work the Sweep on this plan.

In the month of April 1841. $\$356\frac{36}{100}$. was debited to me, on account of 3000 lbs. of Sweep 7 thousandths fine in silver — left by Mr. Maxwell the late melter & Refiner. To this charge I assented at the time, supposing that the expense of smelting was to be borne by the mint. The Smelting of the same by Messrs Greenfield & Longman will cost 30 × 8 = $240. which in view of present instructions I shall ask you to recommend to be carried to my credit.

Mr. Greenfield wishes me to send him our iron pots, on which ~~and~~ in which there is some silver. How can such a transaction be adjusted? $7 p bbl.

Four months since Mr. Kennedy gave me orders to cast my stock of fine silver into ingots, since which time I have had to raise Mexican dollars and other bullion to standard by refining with nitre. On this plan I have since refined and cast exclusive of clippings near 200.000 ounces of ingots. I have strong misgivings that it is a very wasteful operation. But I had no alternative. What is your experience in the matter?

I have repeatedly suggested to our superintendant that as our mint does least in warm weather, the last of summer, or first of autumn would be far the most convenient time for the habitual settlement of my annual account; as there would previously be leisure for getting up the grains and assaying the sweep. I hope you will authorise him to make the change.

I will thank you to prescribe definitely all the rules and formalities proper to be observed in melting deposits; especially as regards the stirring. Our defective flues have often disenabled me from properly mixing the metal.

Respectfully
Your Obt. Servant
J. L. Riddell
Melter & Refiner

NEW ORLEANS
AUG
17
La.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia

From
Dr. J. L. Riddell,
Melt & Ref.
New Orleans
Aug 14/41.

Recd. 27th.

Branch Mint New Orleans Aug. 20. 1841

Dr. R. M. Patterson. Director

Sir

In justice to our Superintendent I should perhaps have apprized you in my letter of the 14th inst., that the original of your letter of 21st July relating to sweeps, was handed to me for perusal on Saturday the 7th inst.

Mr. Kennedy also requests me to state to you the reason why I was directed by him to melt the stock of fine silver into ingots. This order was given me some time subsequent to the order for the withdrawal of our bullion fund by government; for the laudable purpose as I understood it of enabling us to pay off the deposites made for coinage, and at the same time meet the said government draft. At the time neither Mr. Kennedy nor myself anticipated the raising of standard by nitre, but presumed on the receipt of test bottoms from Mexico. the supply of which proved wholly inadequate. Our test furnace is useless from too small a flue.

Your Obt Servt

J. L. Riddell.

From /
Dr. J. L. Riddell
Melter & Refiner
N.O. Br. Mint

dated 20 } aug. 1841
rec'd 31 }

New Orleans.

August 1841

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia

NEW ORLEANS La.
AUG
21

Mint U. S.
Aug. 28/41.

Sir,

Your letter of the 14th, post-marked 17th inst., has come into my hands just as I ~~was~~ am on the point, for the first time for three years, of indulging myself with an absence from the Mint of of four or five days.

I am sorry to find that you ~~report~~ announce so large an amount of poor sweep, ~~as~~ since the cost of transportation and the refiner's charge will, I fear, greatly reduce the net proceeds. I shall be glad, however, to be put in possession of it, at as early a day as possible.

I think you are right in keeping back the thin stuff which runs off with the water. An assay of a portion of it will, however, best determine this point.

Dr. McClintock sold his broken iron pots to Mr. Greyfield at $7 per barrel. If he will give you that price for them, you will do well to send them to him direct to New York.

Our Melter & Refiner is engaged in a course of experiments on toughening & refining by nitre, which are not yet brought to a conclusion, but which are made for the purpose of determining the question of its eligibility. A trial made some time ago seemed favorable to this process, but circumstances have since led us to doubt the accuracy of that trial. When we obtain the results of which we are at present in search, they shall be communicated to you.

The question as to Mr. Maxwell's sweep I must hold suspended, and also your request that I should "prescribe definitely all the rules and formalities proper to be be observed in melting deposits." On my return, I will again write to you.

R. M. P.

(W)
Dr. J. L. Riddell.
Melt & Ref.
New Orleans Mint.

To (Dr. Jno. L. Riddell,
Melt. & Ref. &
Br. Mint
New Orleans
Aug. 28/41.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Sept. 7. 1841

Enclosed you have our Statement for the Month of August.

Our Suspension for the purpose of rebuilding the flues of the Melting Department commenced on the 19th ult. Judging by the progress which has so far been made in the work I am in hopes that we will be ready to resume operations on, or about, the 1st of October –

Respectfully
Y. obed. Servt.
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint of
the U. S.
Philada.

From
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint
New Orleans.
Sept. 7/41.

Rec. 17th.

September 1841

August Report

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of August 1841.

Kind of Deposite	Deposites Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces,	dw	Ounces,	dw	Dolls,	cts	Dolls,	cts	Dollars,	cts
Gold:										
No deposites of Gold received this month										
Silver:										
Foreign Coins,	280	05	272	89	317	54	317	54		
									317	54
Total deposites									317	54

Denomination	Coinage Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars,	cts	Dollars,	cts
Gold:					
Quarter Eagles,	7.380	18.450	00		
Half Eagles,	50	250	00		
				18.700	00
Silver:					
Quarter Dollars,	120,000	30.000	00		
Half Dollars,	2,000	1.000	00		
				31.000	00
Total Coinage				49.700	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office, August 31st. 1841.
H. Cammack
Treasurer.

Unofficial.

New Orleans 11 September 1841.

Sir

Enclosed I hand you copy of our trial balance made to the end of August.

I am sorry that we could not get Coins enough to pay all the deposites before the Mint suspended.

The Yellow fever Continues very bad. It is, this year, epidemic. There have been seven cases in the mint, all have recovered except two who are much better and will get well.

Three workmen have been sick - A Mrs Young who occupies Mr Tyler house, two of my servants and one of Mr Tyler's.

I am with great respect
Your very obt Servant
H C Cammack

To Dr R. M. Patterson

From/ H. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.
Sept. 11, 1841.
Rec'd " 27, "

Dr. Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans Cr.

1841				Dollars,	cts
August	31	To	Coiner his account of Gold, for 58. 911 oz. Standard Gold, to be accounted for by him	1095	82
"	"	"	Coiner his account of Silver, for 4.228. 39 oz. Standard Silver, to be accounted for by him	4920	27
"	"	"	Melter & Refiner his account of Gold, for 299. 911 oz. Standard Gold, to be accounted for by him	5579	73
"	"	"	Melter & Refiner his Account of Silver, for 12.918. 08 oz. Standard Silver, to be accounted for by him	15.031	92
"	"	"	Gold Coinage, for balance of this account	3.299	33
"	"	"	Silver Coinage, for do " " do	1.081	17
"	"	"	Edm.d Forstall, late Treasurer of the Br. mint, for balance of this account	2.342	16
				33.350	40

1841				Dollars,	cts
August	31	By	United States Deposite Account, for balance of this account	23.238	10
"	"	"	Union Bank of Louisiana, for 2 Silver deposites due them	9.261	96
"	"	"	R. H. Borren, for 1 Silver deposite due him	147	97
"	"	"	Bartlett & Adams, " 1 do do " "	99	80
"	"	"	B. Nollner, " 1 do do " "	200	47
"	"	"	Profit & Loss, for balance of this account	402	09
"	"	"	Silver Bullion purchased for Coinage, for fractions not counted		01
				33.350	40

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, August 31st 1841.
H. E. Cammack
Treasurer